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*Somersetshire
Archæological & Natural History
Society.*

Proceedings during the Year 1883.

VOL. XXIX.





Torr Steps, on the Barle, Somerset.

Wm. Bridgwood, Nov. 1883.

SOMERSETSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY
SOCIETY'S
PROCEEDINGS, 1883.



VOL. XXIX.

TAUNTON:
J. F. HAMMOND, HIGH STREET.
LONDON: LONGMANS, GREEN, READER, AND DYER.
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Preface.

The Editor regrets that the Volume is again somewhat late. Next year it may be hoped that all will be done by March, to ensure an earlier issue in accordance with the general wish expressed at the last meeting.

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Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
during the Year 1883.

THE Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Wiveliscombe, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 21st, 22nd, 23rd August. This district of West Somerset had not before been visited.

MR. CHAS. I. ELTON, the retiring President, on taking the chair, said that his task was a very brief one. He begged to thank the Society for the honour conferred upon him—for it had been both an honour and a pleasure to him; and he hoped that during his year of office he had done something to promote the objects of the Society. He had only now to introduce to them their most respected friend and neighbour, Mr. Wm. E. Surtees, the President-elect.

MR. SURTEES then took the chair, remarking that he would for the moment only thank them for the distinction. He would therefore call on the Secretary to read the

Annual Report.

MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

“Your Council beg to present their 35th Annual Report, as follows:—

“The number of your Members continues to be much the same as last year. The new Members received since 1882, although numerous, have only served to replace those lost by death or otherwise.

“The Financial Report presented by your Treasurers shows a balance of £85 10s. 5d. on the general account in favour of the Society, against £19 11s. of last year. Of this, £45 1s. 6d. has since been laid out in the purchase of books and book-cases from the library of the Taunton Institution. The debt due from the Castle Purchase Fund has been reduced from £561 3s. 4d. to £491 10s. during the year.

“Your Council have to report the presentation to your Museum of many specimens of Natural History from the British Museum. They have also to report a present from the same Institution of about eighty volumes of Catalogues, Indexes, and other valuable publications. From the Government of India your Council have received some very valuable Historical, Archæological, and Topographical Reports, enriched with rare prints and photographs. They also have great pleasure in reporting the receipt of one volume of the *Fac-similies of Anglo-Saxon Charters*, from the Lords of the Treasury.

“The addition made to your Library by the purchase of rare and standard works from the collection of the Taunton Institution amounts to over 240 volumes.

“Your Council have to report the receipt, through Mrs. Pengelly, of some remains found in Kent’s Cavern, Torquay, from Lord Haldon and the Committee of the British Association.

“They have also to report the purchase, for the Museum, of about thirty Roman silver coins, found at Chew Magna.

“The Hugo Manuscripts, referred to in the last year’s Report, have been placed in the hands of your Council. They are not so complete as could be wished, and at present are hardly in a fit state for publication.

“Your Council have much pleasure in reporting the munificent proposal made by Col. Wm. Pinney to rebuild at his own cost the stair turret leading to the muniment room, now in a very dilapidated condition. The plans and estimates prepared by your Architect, Mr. Ferrey, have been laid before the Building Committee, in accordance with the standing order made in 1879, and with some very slight alterations have been unanimously approved of by them.

“In connection with the plan for rebuilding the stair turret, it was recommended by your Architect, that the muniment room, its roof, walls, and floors, might advantageously undergo a thorough repair at the same time. After due consideration and examination of other parts of the Castle, the Building Committee considered that this work, although desirable, was not of such urgent necessity as repairing or restoring the roof of the geological room. They therefore passed a resolution that your Architect, Mr. Ferrey, should be requested to examine that roof, and report his opinion of the repairs required thereon, and the probable cost of such repairs.

“Your Council much regret the loss, by death, of Lord Talbot de Malahide, who was for so many years a prominent antiquary, and when resident in the county of Somerset took a warm interest in the welfare of the Society.”

The adoption of the Report—proposed by Bishop CLIFFORD, seconded by Mr. ELTON—was carried unanimously.

Mr. C. J. TURNER,—expressing regret that Mr. Badcock could not be present,—then read the

The statement—proposed by Rev. Preb. BULLER, seconded by Bishop CLIFFORD—was accepted.

Mr. GREENFIELD proposed the re-election of the Officers of the Society, with the additions of Mr. C. I. Elton, as a Vice-President; and Mr. Hancock and Rev. J. Coleman, as Local Secretaries for Wiveliscombe and Dulverton respectively.

Mr. A. J. MONDAY seconded, and the proposition was carried *nem. con.*

The PRESIDENT said it was usual to leave to the Committee the selection of the place for next year's meeting, and he would ask the general sanction to this old custom.

The question was then left to the Committee.

Several new Members were elected.

Rev. F. BROWN remarked that they were now gathered at their Annual Meeting, and the volume of last year's *Proceedings* had not been published. He thought some arrangement should be made whereby the volume could be earlier in the hands of the Members.

The HON. SEC. much regretted the delay, but the volume was now almost ready. One reason of the delay was a long, but able and valuable paper. He thought the Society should publish occasionally an extra volume, when the subject treated was fairly exhausted; and this was a paper entitled to this separate form. A time certain should be fixed for the publication of the *Proceedings*.

Bishop CLIFFORD proposed that it might be issued not later than March.

The Rev F. BROWN seconded this, which was duly carried.

Bishop CLIFFORD said it was suggested some few years ago that a map of the county should be published, in connection with the Society, on which all discoveries should be marked. He would propose that this should be carried out in the same manner as done by the Gloucestershire Society. On this map were marked the Roman remains, villas, and roads; and all the ancient camps and barrows; and with it was published a

little hand-book, containing the necessary information. This plan was strongly supported by Mr. SCARTH.

Mr. O. W. MALET seconded the proposition.

Mr. ELTON considered that in any such work care should be taken to separate or mark the different periods. Within the last few years there had been extensive discoveries of the remains of the neolithic men. There had been some in his own district. The Committees should be instructed to mark and distinguish, not only the Roman, but also neolithic and paleolithic remains.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS called attention to a map published by the International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeologists. In this map most valuable details were given, the information being conveyed by a series of symbols. He considered it the best map of its kind, and knew of nothing similar at all comparable with it.

The plan was accepted.

The President's Address.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

FIRST thanking you for the honour that you have done me, and then bespeaking your favourable consideration of such deficiencies as I may show in following, with unequal steps, the long line of my distinguished predecessors, I will make a few remarks on some portions of that entertainment, which the Honorary Secretaries and the Local Committees have provided for your enjoyment and instruction.

First, however, I will solicit your condolence on the loss which our Society has very recently sustained by the death of one of its Vice-Presidents, Lord Talbot de Malahide, who, in 1857, was President of this Society, and as lately as 1879 presided, with learning, courtesy, and tact, over the Royal Archaeological Institute, when it met at Taunton.

Permit me to add that our visit on Wednesday to the iron mines on the Brendon Hills will remind many of us of the loss that we sustained about three years ago, by the death of

a very valuable Member of our Committee, General Munro. His learning, as a botanist, was known far beyond those circles that had the privilege of appreciating his endearing social qualities; and his organising skill once conducted a detachment of this Society to these very iron mines.

Your sympathies will justify or excuse these unavailing tributes.

But to return from my digression,—we are now about to penetrate the western highlands of Somerset, where we shall find streams that discharge themselves through the Exe, into the British, instead of the Bristol, Channel; though we may hardly reach Exmoor and the scenery of Whyte Melville's *Katerfelto*, and Blackmore's *Lorna Doone*.

The most primeval object which will claim our attention is a quarry near Brushford. It is rich in what geologists call the Devonian series—fossil molluscs and other very humble forms of animal life.

After these deposits (vast geological ages and changes intervening) a glacial period arrived, and the Weir Clive Rock, to which you will be conducted, is supposed to bear the marks of this time—to have become scored and polished by the slow, noiseless motion of a glacier, that, self-impelled, mysteriously, continuously, irresistibly crept forward on it. This question, we may feel assured, will now be determined.

On this action, Tyndall's *Glaciers of the Alps* is a great authority: but can not we boast our own Professor Boyd Dawkins, and our own Mr. Winwood?

Approaching the historical period, we come to Torr Steps, a foot-bridge of huge stones, crossing the River Barle. Its origin, which now seems lost in the night of ages, we may hope our experts may also be able to elucidate.

All these ancient objects are to be visited on the third day of our tour.

You will hear from others of the Roman and medieval surroundings of Wiveliscombe.

On one of its two adjacent Roman encampments we shall have the advantage of being instructed by Mr. Charles Elton ; and any one who wishes to acquire a good idea of the general principles on which the Romans constructed their camps, will find them in one single page in the middle of the first chapter of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*—the sentence beginning, “ The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city.”

Turning to modern Wiveliscombe, we find that Collinson, whose *History of Somerset* was published in 1791, states in it that “ a considerable woollen manufacture has for more than two centuries been carried on in the town, and still flourishes :” and we may ask why the woollen trade has, for the most part, migrated from the West of Somerset to the West Riding of Yorkshire. Power looms, by superseding hand looms, would draw the trade to a coal-producing district. The merchants of Bristol, who were its principal dock-owners, used to pursue a narrow and exclusive policy in regard to dock dues. The West Riding abounded in coal ; and canals and railroads brought Bradford and Leeds near, in point of expense or time, to the enterprising Atlantic port of Liverpool. Such, at least, is the answer that occurs to me. With regard to Wiveliscombe, I have been informed that the cloth fabric made here was exported for the use of the West Indian negroes, but after their emancipation there was no demand for it.

By the permission of Mr. Collard, an enthusiastic worshipper of two of the sister muses, we shall this day visit Abbotsfield. Nor is this the first obligation that we owe to him ; for some years ago he lent to our exhibition in Taunton Castle the finest specimens from his priceless collection of modern paintings.

To-morrow, amongst other places, the Society will visit Raleigh's Cross, on the Brendon Hills, where there is an inn, at which I trust our Members and associates will do me the honour of partaking an unpretentious luncheon.

The mention of the name of Raleigh—a name that once

roused the enterprising spirit of the men of Cornwall, Devonshire, and Somerset, like the sound of a trumpet;—the name of the courtier of Queen Elizabeth,—the founder of Virginia,—the daring and skilful sea captain (sometimes, I fear, turned almost buccaneer),¹—the author of a passage unsurpassed in the English language for awful grandeur—I mean Sir Walter Raleigh's apostrophe at the end of his *History of the World*, commencing, "Oh! eloquent and mighty Death," and terminating with, "covered by *hic jacet*;"—that name should remind us that we are on the confines of the domain of a family that deserves to be enrolled amongst the most munificent and accomplished supporters of our Society.

Somerset and Northumberland, by the blood and lands of Raleigh of Nettlecombe and Blacket of Wallington, have striven, in friendly rivalry, which could most enrich the ancient and honourable Cornish stock of Trevelyan.

On Thursday, our third day, we shall reach Dulverton. Whether on arriving there we shall find that its church, like the majority of its visitors, is dedicated to St. Hubert, I cannot say; but the chase (of which that saint is the patron), whether of the red deer, the fox, or the otter, supplemented by fishing (for which the Barle and the Exe afford extraordinary facilities), has made Dulverton the perennial paradise of sportsmen.

Near here, at Pixton Park, resided for some years, renting it of the Earl of Carnarvon, Mr. Fenwick Bisset, who, till he entered Parliament, was master of the Somerset stag hounds—a sportsman and politician, whose recent illness has been to all parties in West Somerset a source of deep regret.

From an old local family of the name of Dyke, the Herberts of the Carnarvon branch inherited Pixton, near Dulverton; and Tetton, near Taunton. The heiress of the Dykes married Major Acland, and their daughter and eventual heiress brought

(1). See, *Visitation of Devon*, edited by Dr. J. Colby, p. 188 : and Pulman's *Book of the Axe*, p. 277.

these properties to her husband, the second Earl of Carnarvon. This Major Acland was wounded and taken prisoner in the war of American Independence. His young wife, Lady Harriet Acland, daughter of the first Earl of Ilchester, sought permission to pass through the enemy's lines to nurse her husband; and, for "*mentem mortalia tangunt*," not only received it, but was treated by the enemy with extraordinary kindness and consideration.

Having had occasion to mention in connection the two names of Herbert and Acland, I will add that, when a youth at Oxford, I heard from the strangers' gallery in the House of Commons—that House of Commons being the ancient chapel of St. Stephen—a very able maiden speech, against the first Reform Bill, very gracefully delivered by Lord Porchester, father of the present Earl of Carnarvon; and, about the same period, I heard in the Oxford Union Debating Society an able speech, hardly perhaps as effective, also against the first Reform Bill, by his cousin, the present Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, then recently elected a Fellow of All Souls.

I venture to mention these personal recollections, being probably the only survivor who heard both these speeches.

The Earls of Carnarvon are cadets of the ancient and accomplished house of the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke.

Permit me to refer again, for a moment, to my Oxford recollections.

Imagine the statue of Antinous—tall, handsome, graceful, with face and eyes rather full. Imagine this statue enveloped in the rich black silk gown of a gentleman commoner of Oriel College, and you will have realised the Honourable Sidney Herbert of my Oxford recollections in 1831. His intellect, graceful, like his manners, was perhaps scarcely suited to the hard, straining work required by the office, eventually attained by him, of Secretary at War during the Crimean campaigns. Some severe reflections were made in the House of Commons (and by Roebuck, if I recollect rightly), on the deficiencies

of our troops in comforts and necessaries. Sidney Herbert resigned, was created Lord Herbert of Lea, in 1861, and died the same year. He was a younger brother of the Earl of Pembroke, and his son succeeded the elder brother, his uncle, in that old Earldom.

Then, near Dulverton we shall visit a mansion, which, till recently, was possessed by a family that might almost claim, like the Athenians of old, to be sprung from the very soil of the country which they inhabit. The name of the house is Combe: the name of its possessors from the time of Queen Elizabeth to a very recent period—a name derived from a manor on the sloping side of the river Parret, from which this family was originally disseminated—I need not here say is Syden-ham—Sydenham.

That family produced one of the most distinguished medical writers of the seventeenth century, Dr. Thomas Sydenham.

Combe has recently passed into the possession of another ancient Somerset family, that of Doddington. But we have reason to hope that we may be addressed by the present representative of the family of Sydenham of Combe—Rev. Charles Sydenham, Rector of Brushford.

In the Dulverton district, Harold and his family were powerful. The Domesday book records that in King Eadward's time Earl Harold held Dulverton and Cleve (for in that Norman survey Harold is never admitted to have been King), and one of Harold's sons is there stated to have held Nettlecombe. But Algar, son of Leofric, an enemy of the great Earl Godwin, Harold's father, held Porlock, the post which intervened between the Bristol Channel and Dulverton.

When Earl Godwin, through French influence and the machinations of personal enemies, had been banished by King Eadward, and was in the summer of 1052 collecting a fleet, with which to regain by force his former position, his son Harold came with some vessels to Porlock, and landed, probably with the object of buying or levying supplies there, or of

proceeding to Dulverton to obtain them from his own dependents; but the beacons blazed, and a large force assembled to oppose him.

He gained a victory, returned to his ships loaded with spoil, joined his father's ships, and the united fleet eventually reached London, where Earl Godwin was restored to royal favour.

The district having been a bloody, hard-contested battlefield, permit me, in conclusion, to quote from Scott's *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, a few lines, contrasting, *mutatis mutandis*, with change of names, the present scene with the past:

Sweet Teviot! on thy silver tide
The blazing bale-fires blaze no more;
No longer steel-clad warriors ride
Along thy wild and willow'd shore.
Where'er thou wind'st, by dale or hill,
All, all is peaceful, all is still,
As if thy waves, since time was born,
Since first they roll'd upon the Tweed,
Had only heard the shepherd's reed,
Nor started at the bugle-horn.

Mr. W. A. SANFORD, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President, said he thought the address a valuable contribution to our local knowledge. Mr. Surtees, as they all knew, had for many years been an active and most useful Member of the Society, and had taken the greatest interest in its Museum and its work generally.

Dr. PRIOR seconded the proposition, and it was carried with acclamation.

The PRESIDENT briefly acknowledged the compliment.

Mr. C. H. FOX remarked, with reference to the coarse woollen cloth trade, that what the President had said was correct. Old men were still living in the neighbourhood who had been wool workers at Wiveliscombe. One had told him that on the river Tone there were no fewer than six fulling mills. Besides these coarse blue stuffs, there was a considerable manufacture of frieze and serge. There were about two

thousand people engaged in the serge manufacture in Taunton alone. The industry still flourished at Wellington, and that town held its own with the West Riding.

Mr. O. W. MALET, in a few remarks, said the Members may be congratulated that the debt incurred for the purchase of the Castle was now so nearly cancelled. This had been accomplished from the income derived from the property, aided by the handsome bequest of Sir Charles Trevelyan, and other voluntary donations, and it was not likely that the Society would be again called on for this fund. It must, however, be borne in mind that the annual subscription to the Society was a very small one. It was fixed before this property was acquired. Just now some rather extensive repairs were found to be necessary, and the fund for such a purpose could not be provided, without either delaying the liquidation of the present debt, or incurring a new one. The principal requirements were,—(1) the restoration of the roof of the geological room; (2) the repair of the muniment room; and (3) the rebuilding of the turret gateway. The last named, Col. Pinney has kindly offered to restore at his own cost, and has given £125 for the purpose. Towards the others, subscriptions were solicited. These improvements were proposed in accordance with suggestions made by Mr. Ferrey, who had prepared a report.

Mr. SANFORD said that Mr. Ferrey's report exactly coincided with his own opinion, and he thought the manner suggested was the best way of repairing the roof. He would propose that a committee—a small committee—should be appointed to consider any such improvements.

Mr. ELTON seconded, and the proposition was carried.

The business meeting then concluded, and the Members proceeded to perambulate the town.

The first visit was paid to the

Parish Church.

Rev. W. H. TROTT, the Vicar, kindly conducted the party,

and noted the points of interest. The church was rebuilt in 1827, and he believed the old church was in a shaky condition, yet an attempt made to pull it down did not succeed, and it had to be blown up. The present arches were turned with brick; coloured to imitate stone; they were constructed at the time the church was rebuilt. The chancel was quite modern; erected about ten or twelve years ago: the old east window was now in the wall of the north aisle. The only monument of interest was that of the Wyndham family, in the south aisle.

Rev. F. BROWN said the recumbent figures represented Humphrey Wyndham, of Golden Hill, Wiveliscombe, and his wife Margery Stevenson. He was third son of Sir John Wyndham, Kt., of Orchard, and died May 29th, 1622, aged 84; Margery died Sept. 1st, 1620, aged 72. Their only son died in his youth, and was buried at Wiveliscombe: their only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married May 11th, 1607, John Colles, Esq., of Barton, Somerset. John Colles died Sept. 3rd, 1627, aged 45; Elizabeth died in 1634, aged 48: there is a fine monument to both of them in Pitminster church. Of their issue, an only son died an infant; and of four daughters, Dorothy died unmarried, 1630. Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married first Herbert Dodington, eldest son of Sir William Dodington, Kt., of Breamore, Hants: he died 1634 s.p. She married, secondly, John Coventry, Esq., eldest son of Thomas, Lord Coventry, by his second wife, and died in 1652. The second daughter, Margaret, married Gerard Napier of More Crichel, Dorset, who was created a baronet, June 25th, 1641; she died 1665. The third daughter, Ann, married Sir William Portman, Bart., who died 1648; and secondly, Thomas Neville, Esq.; she died 1652. Elizabeth Colles, the widow of the above John Colles, Esq., in her will, dated Nov. 8th, 1633, says: "I have erected an almes house in Wyveliscombe for 8 poor people. I give to each 1s. 6d. every weeke, during the Term I have of the Manor of Wyveliscombe. I bequeath £5 per ann. for a Lecture every

Tuesday in the Parish Church of Wyveliscombe, during the above Term of years." She leaves among her daughters a large store of plate and jewels.

The VICAR then led the way to the catacombs under the church; the plan originated at the time of the rebuilding, the freeholds being sold to provide the building fund.

Passing now down the street, the stocks, here placed in the church-yard, were noticed, and the visitors found themselves in the garden of the

Bishop's Palace.

This was represented by some walls, just sufficiently good to be roofed in and used as a wood house, or garden storage.

MR. FEATHERSTONE stated that fifty-five years ago much more was to be seen, the building being then thatched. The windows in the school-house at the corner of the church-yard were taken from these ruins.

Bourne House.

This old house, once the residence of a family of the name, was next inspected. In one of the rooms is an ornamented ceiling, bearing the figures of Venus and Cupid, with the motto, "*Sine cerere et Bacchus friget Venus.*" The original front door, *in situ*, now divides the house, the new part being simply built in advance of it. Mrs. Edwards being duly thanked for her kindness, the party proceeded to

Braynes House,

the residence of Mr. G. R. Norris. Here were viewed, certainly, some fine old specimens of the box tree, forming a covered walk. The question of their age could not be determined: it seemed that they had been much as now seen for some generations past.

Mrs. Tyler's House

was next visited, and here were found some excellent and handsome examples of old oak furniture.

Mrs. TYLER most kindly gave all information to the many

enquirers, and stated that the furniture was known to have been in possession of the family from the year 1600. It was made at Forde, near Wiveliscombe.

Well pleased with their perambulation, the Members now found ready an excellent

Luncheon,

at which they were entertained by the LOCAL COMMITTEE. The repast concluded—

The PRESIDENT, in thanking the Local Committee for their attention, said the Society had been received with genuine archæological hospitality, for which he begged to return their most hearty acknowledgments.

Mr. H. G. MOYSEY replying, thanked Mr. Surtees for these kind expressions. The town of Wiveliscombe and the neighbourhood felt much flattered at having been selected for their meeting.

Afternoon Excursion.

About eighty Members and their friends started in carriages, the first stoppage being at

Abbotsfield,

the residence of C. L. Collard, Esq., charmingly placed, and the grounds laid out with great taste.

Mr. COLLARD having received the visitors in the hall, conducted them through the various rooms, describing the points of interest. In the picture gallery much time was spent, the Members not caring to hurry through this fine collection, gathered from all the principal exhibitions of some years past: the more especially that Mr. Collard, halting from time to time, lovingly gave an account of them. The legend relating to one—"The Phantom Hunter," by P. F. Poole—was very well told. The conservatories and the gardens were also thrown open, but unfortunately time would not allow a general inspection.

Clayhanger Church.

A drive of about six miles brought the party to Clayhanger. An Elizabethan chalice, date 1574, was exhibited.

Mr. FERREY, describing the church, said it must have been originally a 13th century structure. There was a lancet window, and additions had evidently been made at a subsequent period. With regard to the rude arch at the west end, it might be of a later time; but, as the work was so rough, it was probably early. The roof was of the cradle type, so common in Somerset and Devon. The chancel arch was clearly modern. The tower was a plain example of the Perpendicular period, quite different from the elaborate ones to be seen in other parts of the county. There were some old bench ends of the 15th century.

The HON. SEC. mentioned that one of the bells bore the date 1161; he concluded, however, that this was an error; errors were common in bell casting, from the letters having to be first put in backwards.

Mr. SANFORD being determined to settle the point, mounted the ladder to the belfry, and satisfactorily concluded that the date intended was 1611; G.P., the initials of the founder, being those of the well known Purdue.

A pleasant walk across some fields brought the party to

Nuttcombe Barton,

formerly the residence of the Nuttcombes. After the house had been inspected,

The HON. SEC. said he would judge it to be Jacobean. He had been told that in the church there was a monument to an owner, who died in 1625, and he thought this would be the builder. The mantel-piece in the dining-room had lost the lower portion—the characteristic part; but looking at the ceiling, and generally, he thought it was hardly Elizabethan. The room was a fine one for the period. In the adjoining room, the original hall, there was some fine oak panelling. In the bed-rooms were other ornamental ceilings; and over the

mantel-piece of one was a painting, representing a hunting scene, the principal horseman being, it is supposed, Bampfylde Moore Carew.

Speaking outside, he pointed out that the porch had evidently been taken away, and the wall brought out level. The original front door now formed a part of the panelling within.

Mr. FERREY remarked on the relieving arches over the windows, which he thought were exceptional.

Returning to the carriages, it was determined to shorten the programme, and only visit

Baddington Church.

Mr. FERREY said it was a good specimen of a village church, of the best Perpendicular period. There was evidently an earlier church, and some good metal work would be noticed on the door, of a time earlier than the present building. The ceiling was excellent, nicely panelled, with fine bosses at the intersections. The last bay was more sub-divided than the others. The screen was a beautiful specimen; the font plain, octagonal, appeared to be of the same date as the present church. In the chancel was a piscina of a peculiar character; the trefoil was round-headed, instead of being pointed at the top; the bowl had been cut off. The door arch was remarkable as being of wood. There were in the locality examples also of wooden lintels.

Chipstable, the next place on the programme, was passed, and the drive homeward slowly commenced; the result, a very late arrival.

The dinner, provided at the Lion Hotel, was excellent in quantity and quality, but entirely marred by the almost total absence of service.

Evening Meeting.

The usual assembly was held in the Town Hall, which was quite full.

The PRESIDENT, on taking the chair, called on the Rev.

H. C. Ruddock to read a paper, written by Mr. Clement Waldron, who was unable to attend, on the

Town and Parish of Wiveliscombe.

As Mr. Waldron had already printed his paper, copies being in the room for distribution, it is only necessary here to give an epitome of it.

Of the very early history of Wiveliscombe there is little or no record. A celt of unusual size, found at Whitefield, and now preserved in the Museum at Taunton; some fragments of cinerary urns and various barrows in the neighbourhood, constitute the oldest traces of primeval man.

The outline of a small square camp appears in some fields called "Dry Aubreys," to the south of Castle and the railway; and not far from this spot, a barrow of large size (which does not appear to have been recently opened) stands close to the railway at Croford, about a mile from the town, at a place called Coxborough.

Near Croford, also, may be traced a deep Roman road, which led to the camp at Castle.

All these places deserve careful examination, as well as a fissure in the Castle Rock above Croford, which has all the characteristics of a bone cavern. There is a tradition that some of the adherents of Monmouth were concealed in this cave after the fatal battle of Sedgmoor, during the "reign of terror," when Judge Jefferys held his bloody assize at Taunton.

Of the Bishop's Palace, some fast crumbling walls now alone remain. Situate in a finely wooded and fertile country, it stood formerly a stately edifice, fronting the south, with a large park before it extending down into the valley to the east. The main entrance was probably through the archway now standing, and the gardens and old buildings between the north wall and the road or street, formerly called "The Palace Green," was then a large curtilage in the rear. Fifty years ago the kitchen was in existence, and the north wall, now

fast falling into ruins, stood at three times its present height, with Gothic windows at intervals through its whole length. At that period the Palace Green was open to the public as a place of recreation, and among other fine trees standing there, was a plane tree of remarkable size. Here bull and badger baiting, cock fighting, wrestling matches, cudgel playing, and many quaint games, now obsolete, and perhaps happily forgotten, took place. At Whitsuntide, a great town festival was held there, and a gathering of the inhabitants to hold what was called a "revel."

At the east end of the Green stood the tithe barn, forming at one period a portion of the Palace. In later times, when tithes in kind were no longer gathered, it was used by strolling players and conjurers, and when the old church was pulled down, divine service was celebrated there.

The fields now called the "High Parks" formed a portion of the demesne, and the present names of the fields and places in the neighbourhood attest the purposes to which they were once appropriated, viz., Pond Close, formerly the usual Carp Stew, Court Gardens, Ashpierres, and Carters Close, or Carterers Close; few will recognize in the humble dwellings of Rotten Row the Routine Row, along which religious processions passed. The Palace was supplied with water from a remarkable spring of great purity, which wells out, "*splendior vitro*," from the foot of Bend-knee Hill, at Hartswell. This was really "Arch Well," for it had a culvert over it, and the water was conveyed in leaden pipes to the Palace. The water from this and another spring was collected and used to keep the town mill going,—a source of considerable profit in those days to the lord of the manor.

The Manors of Wiveliscombe and Fitzhead consisted of about 200 tenements, besides a large extent of common land on Maundown and elsewhere, and a farm called Wiveliscombe Farm, held in demesne. It was for many years leased by the Bishops of Bath and Wells for three lives. The Bishop's

lessee, or Lord Farmer, as he was called, held Manor Courts and made grants for lives, which, according to the custom of the Manor, were binding on the Bishops. The first Bishop's lease of which there is any record bears date the 4th Nov., 1585, by it the Manor was granted to the Crown, pursuant to an exception expressly made in the disabling Statute of 1st Elizabeth, c. 19, for a term of 99 years, to purchase peace and quiet for poor Bishop Godwin, who had offended the Queen. This term was assigned to one Bond, and in process of time it devolved on John Coventry, the second son of Thomas Coventry, created Lord Keeper in the first year of the reign of Charles I. After John Coventry's death, the Manor descended to his son, Sir John Coventry, who within one year of the expiration of his term surrendered it, and took a lease from the Bishop, conformably with the Statute of Elizabeth before-mentioned. This Sir John Coventry was Member of Parliament in the reign of Charles II, and in his person originated the famous "Cutting and Maiming Act."

The Coventry family continued to be the lessees of the Manor until the year 1813, when John Coventry sold his interest—dependent on the life of His Majesty King George III—to the Earl of Clarendon for £10,000, and shortly afterwards the Earl of Clarendon surrendered the Manor to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who for the sum of £36,529 conveyed it to his son, Richard Beadon, Esq. In course of time the holders of leases were enabled to enfranchise, and the remains of the ancient Manor passed into the hands of Lord Ashburton.

There were two other Manors within the parish, viz., the Prebendal Manor, belonging to the Prebend or Canon of Wiveliscombe in Wells Cathedral, and the Manor of Oakhampton, or Ockington, held under the Dean and Chapter of Wells.

The Prebendal Manor was long held by the Lords Stawel, until it fell into the hands of Dr. King, afterwards Bishop of

Rochester and editor of the *Life and Writings of Edmund Burke*. Dr. King sold part of this Manor for the redemption of the land-tax, consisting of the western portion of the town, including Ware, Sharphouse, the greater part of West Street, the Bell Inn, Gullet, Lambrook, Rotten-row, and some portions of Church Street.

The Manor of Oakhampton was held for a long time by the elder branches of the Yea family as lessees from the Dean and Chapter of Wells. The tenant of Oakhampton Farm was compelled by the custom of the Manor to attend annually at the Court Leet with a horn slung across his shoulder, and holding a hound in a leash, in token of his service and that he was ready to assist in the hunting excursions of his chief lord.

Both Wiveliscombe and the neighbouring town of Milverton were borough towns, and sent Representatives to Parliament.

The Borough Inn and Burgesses Close, at the bottom of Golden Hill, are remnants of the old town, and some customs are still observed, or were within a recent period, which relate back to the same thing, such as the Borough dinner and Borough court, where a Bailiff and Portreeve were annually elected, with ale tasters, swineherds, and scavengers ; but these officials have now given place to a Board of Health and the Police.

The parish church was built at an unfortunate period, before the work of restoration was understood. The old church stood nearly on the same site. The screen was a very handsome one, elaborately carved in oak with various and quaint devices, which had been painted and gilded. The principal figures were Moses and Aaron. The pulpit and ends of the seats, the ceiling, and other portions of wood work, were also handsomely carved. There was a rood-loft, which was used as a gallery. The tower was cracked from the top to the bottom, and oscillated when the bells were rung.

Many of the monuments in the old church were removed

to the present building, where they may be recognised by their dates. There was a large vault belonging to the Wyndham family in the south-eastern corner of the church; when opened it was found to contain nothing but earth and stones. It was said that the Wyndhams were buried in stone coffins, and that former churchwardens had removed them and used them on their farms as drinking troughs for cattle.

Eliza Coles, "the sole daughter faire and heire indeed" of Humphrey Wyndham, and widow of John Coles, Esq., erected an almshouse "for the settlement of eight poor aged people, and did also order the charity of 1s. 6d. a week to be for ever paid unto each of the said poor people; which money was, by a decree made in the High Court of Chancery, charged on the Manor of Wiveliscombe."

This decree was obtained in 1687, and the sum of £31 4s. was annually paid, until the death of His Majesty King George III, in 1820, when the Coventry family ceased to have any further interest in the matter.

In the reign of Charles II, Sir John Coventry, who was then lessee of the Manor, gave the tolls of the market to the use of the poor of the parish. In course of time, these monies having accumulated, David Yea and eleven other trustees for the same, purchased with them, of Francis Hawley and Judith his wife, the poor lands at Maundown. Francis Hawley, who had been one of Cromwell's Generals, lived at "Jews." The purchase was made in February, 1686, the year after the battle of Sedgemoor and the miserable defeat there of the Duke of Monmouth, Sir John's old enemy, who had assisted at the slitting of his nose.

The chief industry of the town to the commencement of this century, was the manufacture of woollen goods, consisting of blanketings, knap coatings, kerseys, shrouds, ermine, baize, and peniston. The ancestors of the North, Featherstone, and Chorley families, old families of Wiveliscombe, were wealthy and thriving clothiers. A large portion of the cloth manu-

factured was sent to the colonies for the use of the slave population. The Act of Emancipation destroyed this trade; the cloth was considered a badge of slavery, and the emancipated negro refused to wear it.

The "peniston" had a bad character. It was stretched on the rack beyond fair limits, and was liable to contract when wetted: a coat made of it, if exposed to a shower of rain, would at once put the wearer in a strait waistcoat. Fifty years ago, the sound of the shuttle and the rattle of the loom might be heard in nearly every street, and the pasture fields contained lines of oaken racks, on which blanketings and other woollen goods were stretched: but the trade melted away before the power-loom and steam and the more advanced enterprise of greater manufacturing centres.

The large brewery belonging to Mr. Hancock now represents the chief trade. The upper waters of the Tone, fed by many pure springs in the parish of Wiveliscombe, are here converted into that sound and excellent ale, which flows in a perennial stream to so many distant towns.

Mr. GREEN, on account of the late hour, epitomised the following notes, remarking that he feared the idea that Wiveliscombe ever returned Member or Members to Parliament must be given up. We had now an official, printed account of all such returns, and Wiveliscombe was not found in the list. The supposed allusions to a borough would refer to the Lord's Court. As to the derivation of the name, he thought it must still be considered an open question. Walter de Hemingford (p. 399) must answer perhaps for some of the suggestions, as in recording a visit of the archbishop in 1331, he calls it Wenelliscombe—Wembliscumbe—Wynescombe—and as a last guess, in a note at foot it is written Wivescombe. *Domesday Book* had been mentioned, but there was now available another and rather earlier document, destined to be used piecemeal, as *Domesday* had been.

In the *Gheld Inquest of Somerset*, taken in 1084, it is re-

corded that in Wiveliscoma there was one mill, and rent amounting to fifty pence; there were also six goats; the value of the Manor was £10, the acreage, excluding Fitzhead, was 4,634. There were thirty-six plough lands, working 4,320 acres; with meadow and other lands, marking rather less than noted in *Domesday* taken two years later. Within this there were rated twelve hides; of these the bishop had three in hand, and three knights held the other nine. Two of the three knights appear to have been named Theodoric and Egbert, their other name varying perhaps, until destined to take *atte* or *de la* for a prefix. Wiveliscombe almost gave the name to the Hundred. Of the scattered episcopal manors, says Mr. Eyton, Wyvelescombe "is found in one of the old indexes as a sometime independent Hundred or Liberty; but it was never actually so recognized."

In 1256 (41 Hen. III), 28th May, the bishop got a charter of free-warren in his lordships of Wynelescombe and Liddeyard, the grant being witnessed, with others, by Philip Basset, and Reginald Wolerand. By charter also, in 1284 (13 Ed. I), he received a grant of the right to hold a market weekly for one day, on Tuesday; and a fair every year, for three days, viz., the vigil, the day and the morrow of the Trinity. These grants were made rather as a source of revenue to the lord, but probably at the same time they were no small convenience to the people.

The condition of the people, and their position towards their lord in early times, is one of great interest, and the more so, as documents relating to the subject are but rarely found. The general story is known, and may be told again, but documentary evidence should be carefully sought, and produced, for special cases. There were once serfs or slaves in England—men and women bought and sold; and then a little above them were the villeins or townsmen—who being born within the manor, belonged to it and could not leave it without consent, which meant a fine; who cultivated small holdings or were cottars, in both

cases paying their rent by personal services. An example of the former condition seems to be met with at Beckington, where, in or about the year 1260, Ysolda de Erlegh made a grant of half a virgate of land, held by Hamo de la Rigge (Ridge), "together with the said Hamo and all his chattels." Hamo had nothing, not even himself, to call his own. (*Dodsworth Charters*, Bodleian).

For Wiveliscombe there happens to be extant (*Bodleian Charters*, No. 15), a Court Roll of the manor, being the account from Michaelmas, 30 Hen. VI, to Michaelmas, 31 Hen. VI, which would be for the year ending Michaelmas, 1452.

The rents of assize, *i.e.*, from regular tenants paying chiefly

in money, were	...	...	£ 21	4	10½
Other rents	...	...	9	1	8
Works—ploughing, etc.	...	...	1	0	9
Three mills and a fulling mill	...	...	5	12	0
From Fitzhead	...	...	9	6	7
„ the Dovecot	...	...	0	1	8
„ fruit from the garden...	...	...	0	0	2
Trinity Fair at Wilscumbe, and St. James's at Fitzhead	...	...	2	0	0
Cocks and hens sold	...	...	0	16	8½
Two young cocks, sold to Roger Bocher	...	...	0	0	8
One ditto	...	...	0	0	4
Two cart loads of hay	...	...	0	0	4

Then there is the account of the wool.

One todd, 10 lbs., fracte	...	...	0	3	2
Sixteen pounds lambs' wool	...	...	0	2	0
Fifty-eight lamb skins	...	...	0	5	4
Woods	...	...	0	16	8
Bark	...	...	0	2	0

There were also rents from small tenements, and from the farm and three fulling mills; from land in Fitzhyde and Penfield, and Nodebreche; and a garden in Langrygge. Pasture was sold in High Park, and in Awbrey and the Conynger;

and in Est Park and Molwelmede and Bury; also an acre called Weleacre and Floremede; and a parcel called Duckemore. Among those named as holding arable land is John Yaa.

Among the stock—cows and sheep—sold, two cows and one calf brought 18s. 6d. There was one ox sold which had been taken as a heriot. One hundred and forty-five *multones*, 135 ewes, 145 hoggets, and 118 lambs; and 7 todts 16 lbs. of wool were sold. Twenty-five *multones*, called Rebbers, brought 9d. each; and twenty-eight others 8d. each. There is also entered 1 todd of wool, arising from the goods and chattels of Robt. Pawley. Pawley seems to have come entirely to grief. An ox, a cow, a calf from the herd of calves, and three young oxen are entered as seized by the bailiff, the goods of Robt. Pawley.

In the expenditure appears a charge for stone for the gate and manor house; for the new mill; for the windmill; for repairs to the mill at Croford, and to another at Cottecombe. There is also a charge towards the stipend of the vicar—per ann., 20d., for a “toga.” The expenses of the seneschall for holding his court, were for the year, “as appears by three bills sealed,” 49s. 2½d.

Turning now to this court (the Court Baron or Manor Court), and the perquisites and dues belonging to it, the relation of the people to their lord will be more clear. The fees received from the Halmote at Michaelmas amounted to 2s. 3d., and John Beram was fined 40d. At Candlemas (February) the perquisites amounted to 4s. 11d.; but Thomas Janys had a bad time, being fined £10. At the Hock-day Court (the second Tuesday after Easter) the fees were 2s. 4d., and at St. John Baptist, 3s. But the most remarkable fees were three charges for permitting marriage. In these three courts, Juliana, relict of John Wyche, paid £10 for a license; whilst Marion, relict of John Robyns, paid but £5 6s. 8d.; and Joan, relict of John Bradeford, paid only £4. These were, as will be seen, very uneven sums, fixed by

caprice, and very heavy. The money would represent perhaps five and twenty times those sums now : that is, £10 then would be equal to £200 or £250 now. There is no entry of any other marriage, so that what the custom of the manor may have been cannot be stated.

Next must be noted the services due, and how they were paid.

There is but one entry of a tenant above the condition of a villein, in the person of Henry Bowryng, who, entered as *nativi domini*, had got so far towards freedom that his personal labour was commuted to a payment, called capitage, of 12d. The surplus labour of the others—that not actually wanted by the lord—would appear to have been sold ; that is, the labour was performed to order, and a money payment received for it from the employer. This clearly marks the step by which all could avoid service, as it would be equally advantageous to take money from the villein as from the employer. Possibly this was done. Four days' ploughing and labour were sold at 6d. ; and 8s. 7d. were received for 206 harrowings, at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each ; and $53\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 1,272 manual labours, at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Thirty-two days' work at stacking where charged at 1d. ; 8s. 8d. were received for "messone" (harvest work), on twenty-six acres, at 4d. ; and 4s. 1d. for forty-nine bederypps or reapings, at 1d. Then there were six days' labour from two burgages, of which each burgage gave three half-days at hoeing.

There were 420 days due from lands, at Michaelmas and Midsummer ; the same service from 204 half-virgates of land, and 20 ferdell, and 10 and 5 acres ; and 888 labours from 7 half-virgates, 20 ferdell, and 10 and 5 acres. There were also 104 works due from fifty customary tenants, or copyholders.

These entries are of interest, as showing the many small holdings, enabling us to see how the land was brought into cultivation through such allotments, the return being so much labour to the lord. From such holdings, first by service, then as customary or copyhold, afterwards as freehold, came the class known as yeomen, of whom there were so many in Somerset

before this century. They have disappeared before the more expensive habits of life and the great accumulating commercial wealth of the last fifty years, the impossibility of getting more than a bare existence, and the fact that the owner could better employ the money value as tenant of a larger acreage.

There were also 210 "aruro" or days' ploughing, for seed corn and oats, each ploughing valued at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 210 harrowings, each of three half-days, valued at $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and 60 harrowings, from 60 customary tenants, at which each harrowed for one day: other labour, called Redebeoggyn, was valued each at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. There was labour also at stacking and carrying hay; and 21 works from 21 cottars for one day, each valued at 1d. Various harvest works are noted, and bederypps (reapings), every one doing one day; and 21 bederypps were due from 21 cottars, at which each worked for half a day.

In the receipts there is an entry of four quarters of white wheat, received at the Feast of St. Martin; a very small supply to us, but wheat at this date was but little cultivated, and only used by the very wealthy. The toll at the mill was three quarters and two bushels of barley and sixteen quarters five bushels one peck of oats. The general food at this time was oatmeal, eaten with salt. The bread was of rye, when not made with mixed corn—oats, barley, and rye—called meslin. The final entry records a payment "*liberatis denariis*" to the receptor of the lord, for "four tables"—presumably the household charges—£40.

This document, here rather hurriedly examined, has in itself a sufficient text for a good paper, and would, if space permitted, well bear being printed *in extenso*.

Wiveliscombe jogged on in this way until the great time of the dissolution; and then, as the manor remained episcopal, there is not much to record. One Lawrence Hyde managed to buy of the church lands, a close called Waterlete, and a close called Longland, worth 6s. 8d. per annum: for these, at 22 years' purchase, he paid £7 6s. 8d.

In the County Records at Taunton, of the year 1620, there is a document somewhat rare, although there is one other such in Somerset, whereby, in consideration of the payment of £5, and a yearly rent of 10s., a license was granted to William Bennett of Wiveliscombe, clothier ; Robert Bennett, his son, and Mary and Joan, his daughters, in survivorship, to the longest liver of them, to keep an inn at the house of the said Bennett, having for the sign the King's Arms. He was bound to keep the assize of bread, beer, and ale, and all measures ; and to observe and keep the prices of horse-meat, as by the Justices of Assize set down.

At this time a quart of the best cost a penny ; and two quarts of the smallest cost the same price. The price and the quality were fixed by the Justices, and any deviation was marked by a fine.

During the Civil War, Wiveliscombe being in no line of march, nothing occurred to record. After the troubles were over, however, there was the usual little account to be settled ; the properties of the losers were seized, or fines imposed before they were freed.

Robt. Camon held some leaseholds in Wiveliscombe and Fitzhead, worth, he declared, under two hundred pounds per annum. The value being small, he was pardoned.

Wm. Chilcott had a small holding, which was sold to Robt. Colby of London.

William Coleford was charged with being a commissary in a regiment of foot against the Parliament. In defence, he stated that he was a servant to John Coventry, Esq., a colonel of foot ; that he served as a commissary for a fortnight, and then deserted and returned to his habitation, 24th June, 1645, and surrendered himself. His property was a mill and a piece of ground, value £12 ; certain other lands, worth £7 ; and after his father's death certain houses, worth £16. The out-goings were, to the king, £1 4s. ; to Mr. Coventry, for the mill, 12s.

As a set-off he was indebted on a mortgage to John Baker, of Ilton, £100; to Richard Chilcott, on a bond, £20; to James Prowse, of Wellington, Esq., £27; to Edward Benett, Wiveliscombe, £5; to Richard Venn, £5; to Thomas Goddard, £6. For these deductions he prayed an allowance. He was fined one-tenth, which came to £38 8s.

John Coventry, of Barton, being in arms for the King, surrendered at Exeter, and so, according to the articles there agreed upon, his composition would not exceed two years' value of his estate. He was found possessed of the remainder of a term for "thirty-eight years yet to come," of and in the manor of Wiveliscombe, at £80 per annum. Sixteen of these years were in his own right, and the remaining twenty-two were in right of his wife. The whole was worth, before the troubles, over and above the rent reserved, £270. His fine on his whole property would have been £10,000, but now, under the Exeter agreement, he was fined £4,000; and the paper bears the record "paid."

John Bourne, Esq., of Gothelney, held a house and two acres of land; but in his schedule, as a means of getting a reduction in his fine, he sets out that, as his estate lay between Taunton and Bridgwater, he had lost all the profits for two years; that he had lost his principal mansion house in Taunton,—pulled down for the better defence of the town,—and his orchards all felled; that he had 180 dragoons quartered on him for three weeks during the "league" of Bridgwater; that he lost ten horses; that twelve loads of hay had been taken from him, and twelve great ash trees to make pikes. He put his losses at £800 to £1,000 about Taunton, and two or three hundred more in other places. The real estate, nett, was declared at £541 6s. 7½d., the fine, £500; and £200 more for his personal estate; making up £700 in all.

There seems to have been a considerable struggle over the rectory, causing no little confusion. It was even charged that it was "sett unto the use of a Cavalier." In 1649 the Trustees

for forfeited estates claimed it as part of the property of the "late Hierarchy;" and no counter claim being made, no lease being produced to them, according to the Act for the sale of such lands, the glebe, apportioned at £193 5s. 7d. per ann., was sold "in possession" to Nicholas Bond, Esq. Afterwards an attempt was made to oust Mr. Bond, by a claim that the rectory was held by lease for three lives surviving. Against this he petitioned, 21st Nov., 1651, and an order was made that "no lease or pretended claim" should be allowed. This order was obeyed, and he retained his hold. Some strong influence, however, was brought to bear, so that on the 20th April, 1652, Mr. Bond was obliged to petition again, stating that he had purchased the glebe, and that Sir John Stowell, "it was pretended," had a lease for three lives, but no such lease had been produced, therefore the Commissioners had sold to him with possession, and the Committee in the county had ordered delivery. He had thereupon paid his purchase-money and received his conveyance; but, coming to receive his half-year's rents, the tenants refused to pay, because, as they alleged, the Committee had confirmed a lease for six years, made by themselves; if this lease were allowed, it would be a loss of £500 to the State, and as much to him, as purchaser. As the result it was ordered again, that his purchase should be confirmed. Bond then seems to have taken possession, ousting the then tenant, Wm. Hill, who in turn petitioned, stating that he held the rectory improper at a yearly rent of £261, with fire boote, gate boote, and all necessities for reparations; but the glebe being taken from him he had nothing left but the tithes of corn, and corn being very cheap, he had suffered much, especially as "he was obliged to pay the whole rent, to his utter undoing." This is endorsed "To be considered," but the subject no more appears.

In the list of his property, made out by Sir John Stowell, there appears the rectory of Wiveliscombe, set down as let, with the glebe, to Richard Bovett, of Taunton, for six years, from 25th March, 1651, at £261. This would be the "pre-

tended" lease before mentioned, but one not likely to be noticed, as Sir John's estate had long before been forfeited.

Whilst the glebe passed to Bond, the tithes, valued at £270 per ann., were left to the disposal of the Commissioners, or Trustees, for the maintenance of ministers. From them, on 21st April, 1654, John Wood, minister of Wiveliscombe, being approved as qualified to preach the Gospel, was declared fit to receive such augmentation as should be settled on him. The amount is not named. Fifty pounds a year were ordered to be paid to John Hill, minister of Elworthy, his then maintenance being but £50 a year; and Henry Nicholl, minister of Brompton, was also augmented £50 a year from the same source,—his maintenance before not exceeding that amount.

Sir John Stowell, in the schedule of his property, states that the rectory was worth £460; of this, the tithes were worth £270. The whole was in arrear for "seven years at least," and he prayed that an equivalent deduction should be made in his fine. He also craved that an annuity of £100 per ann., from this rectorial income, allowed by him to his mother, might be continued, and her arrears paid up. The Lady Griffin, in her turn, then petitioned that she had from 1632, in consideration of the sum of £800 paid down, received from Sir John this annuity, and had so received it, with some interruptions, until payment was refused in 1650. The petition was referred for consideration, and finally granted on the 21st Feb., 1651. But as to the arrears, the order made looks like a joke. Sir John had set out that he had leased the rectory to Lieut.-Col. Bovett, and that the colonel was in arrear £107. As from this lease Bovett could have neither received nor paid anything, he must have been surprised to find it ordered "that Lieut.-Col. Bovett do pay the Lady Griffin all arrears;" a good mode of settling his account with Sir John.

The plague, as it was called, was very severe in the county, and it is recorded in the *Sessions Rolls*, that at Wiveliscombe the "poor infected people doe break abroad and committ many

outrages and cast infected things into men's windowes, to the great danger of spreading abroad the infection; 440 poore infected people want relieffe,—£20 rate a week too little." These "poor people" were isolated for the general safety, and perhaps left much more to chance and to their own society than they cared to endure. In 1649, coming from Cornwall and Devon, Dr. Worthington, a prominent divine, whose *Diary* has been printed by the Chetham Society, notes that he "Passed over Exmoor, a *terra incognita inhabitabilis*. At Exford we passed a moor where there were no horses, nor any track, and we were almost carried to the North Sea." The doctor was evidently out of his reckoning, but, "at last meeting with one, we were directed to Wiveliscombe, a little market town;" where no doubt he found a safe and comfortable anchorage.

Mr. W. FEATHERSTONE kindly handed in some notes, but, as with other papers, from want of time they could not be read; a selection from them is here made, to prevent repetition.

The staple trade of the town fifty-five years since was the manufacture, by about forty makers, of blankets and collar cloth, and a very coarse cloth called penny stone. After the material was woven, it was taken on horses and donkeys to the fulling mills on the Tone, and there cleansed; then taken back and dyed blue with indigo, and washed, racked, and stretched. Next it was taken to the nibbing mill, where (the machinery being driven by horse-power) it was napped and finished. It was now called penny stone, and had a good appearance to the eye, but was not valuable. When the manufacture ceased, this alone caused a diminution in the wages paid, of from four to five hundred pounds a week. As indicating the quantity manufactured, the then wagon proprietors, Whitmarsh and Brice, of Taunton, received £6,000 per annum for carriage of this one article from Taunton to London. The blanket and collar cloth making was continued for a time, but eventually succumbed to the competition from

other quarters. The water supply is obtained from springs rising on a farm called Withycombe, distant about half a mile, and until lately, was brought by an open course to the top of West Street, where there was a small reservoir, known as the water-house. On this little stream small water-wheels were erected, called indigo-mills—for grinding that dye. From the water-house pipes conveyed the water to three taps or conduits; one in West Street, one at the corner of the White Hart in North Street, and a third at the top of High Street and Golden Hill. As this stream came along the side of a hill, and not by its natural course—which would be in the valley leading to the Town Mills—it must have been artificial, and made for the benefit of the town; but there is no record either by whom or when this was done. The present owner of the farm can only claim supply for drinking purposes. As from time to time the pipes from the water-house were tapped to accommodate private houses, the supply at the conduits was found insufficient,—an inconvenience which continued until about fifteen years ago, when, on the formation of a Local Board of Health, the matter was taken in hand. Besides a supply to the rated houses, there are now twenty public taps.

Twenty-five years ago last January, when gas was introduced, Wiveliscombe was considered the smallest town in England where it was used.

Mr. C. I. ELTON then read a paper on a Roman House at Whitestaunton, which will be found printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT said he was sure all would join in thanking Mr. Elton for his paper. With him at work at home, they would learn something of the life of the Romans, and possibly be saved a journey to Herculaneum or Pompeii.

Mr. GREEN, in some remarks referring to the Roman bath lately uncovered at Bath, thought the question of a “discovery,” so loudly claimed, had been too hastily assumed, as the existence of the bath had already been noted.

Some conversation, embodying a general denial, ensued, one

assertion being that Mr. Green was ignorant of the subject, and that the earlier allusions were to another bath.

MR. GREEN did not reply, in part as no remark made called for it, and also because of the late hour. A few facts may now be added. In 1756, Dr. Lucas, of Bath, published a book on the *Bath Waters*, and therein he gave an account of what he saw in 1755, when the Abbey House was pulled down in that year. The Abbey House, known also as the Royal lodgings, adjoined the west end of the abbey church, and made "near a right angle to it;" the western side stood square with the west end of the church, and extended southward. In an excellent little book on the *Historic Houses of Bath*, by R. E. Peach, just published, it is mentioned that Dr. Peirce, who lived in the house, had as a convenience a gallery and a door on the western side, leading to the King's bath; and on the other side a private door into the church. On clearing out the foundations to the depth of ten or twelve feet, a system of Roman baths, with other remains, was found. Dr. Lucas has left an account and a plan of what he saw, and there are several drawings in the British Museum. The ground was then built on, and so this bath, which measured 42 ft. 6 in. $\times$ 34 ft., disappeared, and now lies buried beneath the Kingston Buildings, to be again some day uncovered; but not, it is to be hoped, again "discovered." In 1763, Dr. Sutherland, another writer on the *Bath Waters*, repeats Dr. Lucas's account, adding to it some experiences of his own, and giving also a plan with fuller discoveries.

Before the Abbey House was destroyed no roadway appears here, but one of the improvements of the time was a "causeway," the present Abbey Street, leading from the Abbey to the Abbey Green. A glance at a map of the city of this date, and at Sutherland's plan, will show these points clearly.

Dr. Sutherland, in giving his account, says: From "each corner" of the "western" side of Lucas's bath there issues a wall of "stone and mortar." These walls he had "traced six

or eight feet westward under the causeway which leads from the Abbey to the Abbey Green." Any one standing now on this "causeway," and looking down westward into the present clearing, must see exactly their position. Dr. Sutherland continues:—From this western side a subterranean passage had been traced for twenty-four feet—that is, twenty-four feet of the present "discovery,"—and at the end of the passage was found a "leaden cistern," raised about three feet from the ground, continually overflowing with hot water. From this a channel was visible, conveying the water eastward to Lucas's bath. The plan given marks this passage, the channel, the cistern, and the steps, now again visible, of this end of the bath. The entire length could not be measured, but, judging by what he thought a "length proportionable" to the actual visible base of 68 feet, by "estimation," he gives the measurement of this "great bath," as he calls it, as 96 ft. $\times$ 68 ft. He records that between "the wall" and the bath the "corridor" was paved with stone; just as at present seen.

This is the bath now disentombed. It is on the same spot, with the same base of 68 ft. Any difference in this estimated and the announced length may arise from the use of a different starting place; such as from either the inside or outside of "the wall;" or by including some extreme points. The measurement now given, assumed here to have been actually made, is 111 ft. $\times$ 68 ft.

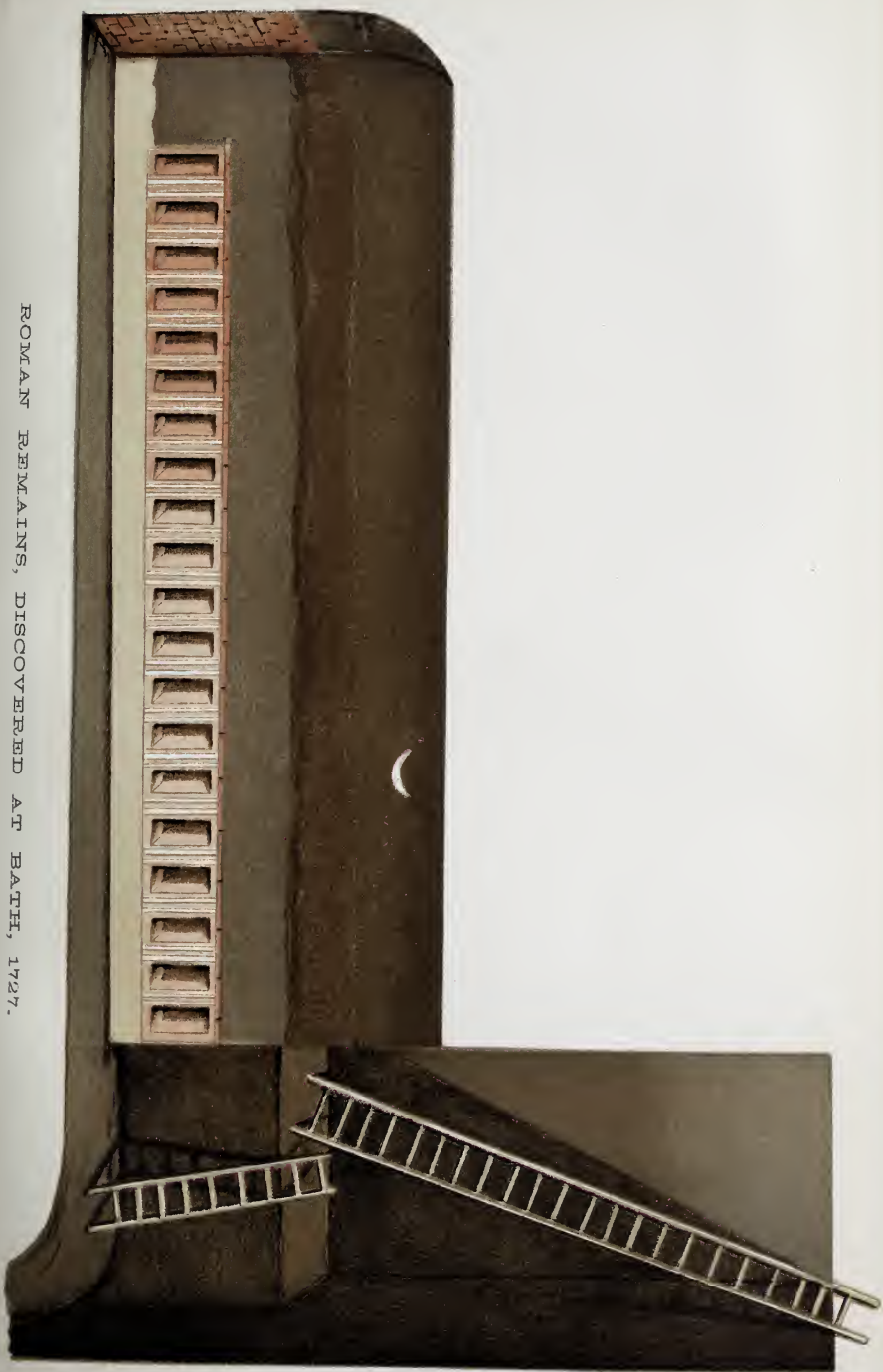
In a recent account of this present clearing, it is stated that it originated from some sewer repairs being supposed necessary hereabouts, and during the investigation below, a "long drain, high enough for passage, was followed," until presently there was found "a Roman tank, lined with lead, in which the water bubbled up at many points." This is just what Sutherland records; so exactly that the wording seems a repetition. Dr. Spry, another writer on the *Waters*, 1822, also gives a plan of these baths, with an account of some further discoveries, adjoining on the west, as made in 1799 and 1803.

It was concluded that another bath was here, to balance or correspond in plan with Lucas's bath on the east. Dr. Spry names these three baths,—the eastern, the great, and the western. This discovery will no doubt now soon be again "discovered."

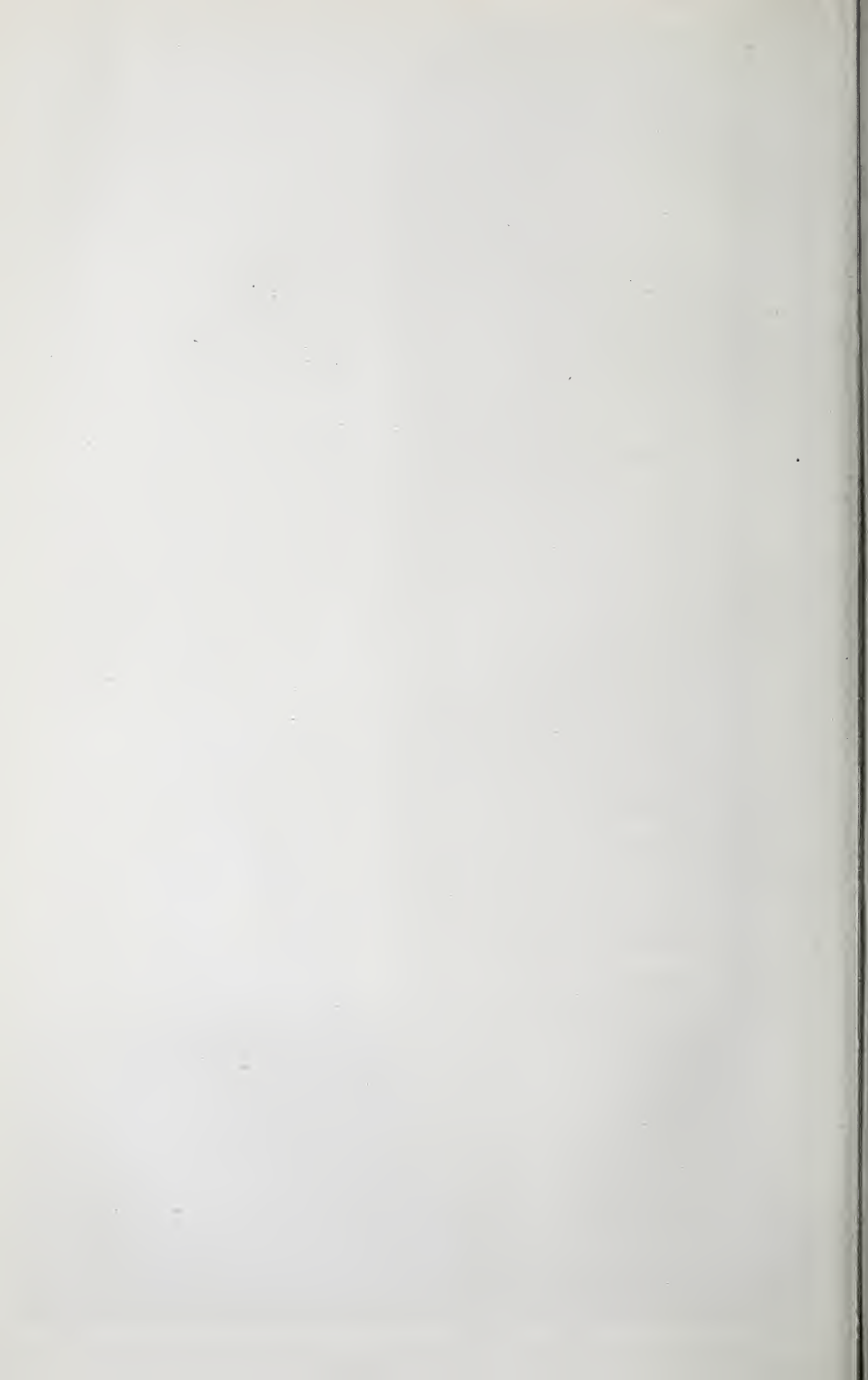
All accounts agree that no damage was done when these remains were exposed, but that "with a Vandalism wholly unaccountable," they were again "buried amidst a chaos of filth, to form the foundations of beggarly houses." Their re-exposure would be as profitable as it would be highly creditable to the authorities concerned, but this should not be done in a dilatory manner, making it a nuisance, and producing, perhaps, an action for damages, as just tried in Bristol during this summer in connexion with the present work at a cost to the Corporation of £250. When 'tis done, 'twere well 'twere done quickly.

There is a plan in the British Museum, "drawn and measured upon the place by Bernard Lins," entitled, a "representation of the subterranean ancient stoves, as discovered in 1727," sixteen feet below the surface, and near "where the brass head was found," over against Alderman Ford's house, in Stall Street. The occasion was the making of a sewer in the middle of the street, to convey the drains from the houses "into the ancient sewer, which emptied in the river about ten yards westward of the bridge." The drawing shows "the east side of the cave or vault, as it runs up the street," which was underpinned with wood, in order to lay the sewer. At the bottom is shown a row of hollow bricks; through these a stick was thrust three or four feet "towards the east, going to the King's bath." This find does not appear to be noted anywhere, or by Mr. Scarth, in his book published in 1864. Such notices simply mean, what is already well known, that this part of the city is entirely covered with these buried remains.

It must be hoped that when these baths are cleared, there may be seen around them modern "scholæ," "cabones that lett smoks to them that want them." Perhaps, too, some may like



ROMAN REMAINS, DISCOVERED AT BATH, 1727.



to use the steps as "quisheons of stone, wch in ye water seams very cosy to sitt upon."

It was after eleven o'clock when the meeting broke up.

Wednesday: Excursion.

The morning opened somewhat unpleasantly, and rain was falling at the time for assembling. The start, however, was punctually made, and by good fortune before noon the rain ceased, and the day remained fine.

The first place visited was the

Castle Rock Quarry.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD having been called upon to make some remarks on the geology of the district, said they were standing upon a very fine mass of Conglomerate, of Triassic age, which fringed the basset edges of the upper Devonian beds in this neighbourhood. Making a passing allusion to the Devonian controversy existing between the Irish and English geologists, he said he accepted the conclusions arrived at by Etheridge, Ussher, and Townsend Hall (the latter's familiarity with these beds being surpassed by none), rather than those of the opposite side, though supported by such an authority as that of the late Professor Jukes. The Members would, in the course of their day's excursion, pass over strata in a descending order, *i.e.*, from the more recent to the more ancient Devonian beds; but at present his remarks would be confined to the Triassic conglomerate before them. They would see from the lime-kiln close at hand that some of these pebbles were burned for lime—a very valuable commodity in these parts; others, consisting of sandstone and grit, were used for road mending. Now as to the source whence they came: were these limestone pebbles Carboniferous or Devonian? As to the source whence the so-called Dolomitic conglomerate which fringed our Mendip Hills was derived, there was but little doubt the limestone pebbles contained

therein were plainly the result of the denudation of the Mountain limestone strata on which they rested; the palæontological evidence was abundant; the fossils contained in them being clearly of Carboniferous age. But as to these before them, he was by no means certain, as he had not seen any fossil evidence whereby their age could be accurately determined: he was rather disposed to consider them Carboniferous. The other sandstone pebbles of which the mass was composed might be of any age between the Silurian and the Coal Measures proper. He would now make way for Professor BOYD DAWKINS, who would be able to controvert, or otherwise, the few remarks he had, with great diffidence, ventured to make in his presence: but before doing so, he called upon the local geologists to collect all the fossil evidence from these conglomerates they possibly could, and to be especially careful accurately to note their localities.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS said he did not agree with Mr. Winwood as to the source of the limestone pebbles, and it was perhaps one of the great advantages of a meeting of this sort that they got some disagreement. He should like to point out the real lesson to be taught from a quarry like this. The pebbles which they saw before them were really fragmental rocks. There were three kinds or conditions of rocks. One was the fragmental, such as these before them; another was crystalline, like the granite; and then there were those which had first been fragmental and had then become crystallized to a certain extent. The conglomerate before them was the result of the dashing of the waves for a series of years upon the older rocks—an untold series of years. It was absolutely impossible to form the slightest idea of the length of time which had been occupied by the formation of this beach. They stood there upon an ancient shore, exceedingly clearly marked by the Devonian hills. There was a distinctly marked coast-line extending towards the Bristol Channel. This same beach was to be found in the neighbourhood of

Bristol. Everywhere it pointed out that they were standing upon the margin of an ancient sea. Some of these pebbles were limestone, and Mr. Winwood had said they were Mountain limestone; although, for his own part, he failed to see how he could make that out. It seemed to him that they had a true series of sandstones on these hills, and that it was more reasonable to suppose that these limestone pebbles had been derived from the same area that provided the Dolomitic conglomerate. The quarry consisted of a kind of petrified shingle beach, belonging to the New red sandstone period. It was impossible to realise the length of time that had elapsed since the waves of the sea had been beating on the Devonian rocks, which in those days formed the sea cliffs in the district. In the physical geography of Britain in those days, the West of England consisted of a line of islands encircled by sea. The mountains of Wales formed islands, overlooking the same sea. The Mendips, too, formed a very small island, and the line of islands extending past the present area of Wales to the Pennine chain—the very back bone of England, and that led to the area of Cumberland, and Westmoreland, and the highlands of Scotland. All these hills constituted the islands, and the intervening sea was marked in the low-lying country between these districts, and by the New red sandstone which constituted the low-lying parts of the garden of England in the south and midland districts. Those who resided in this beautiful neighbourhood had a wonderful opportunity of enlivening the monotony of their lives. If they examined into the causes of the things they saw around them, they would derive, he thought, a greater amount of pleasure—more lasting pleasure—than they could get from the ordinary amusements resorted to.

Mr. RICHARD LANGRISHE, Vice-President of the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland, made a comparison between the sandstone found here, and that found in his native county of Kilkenny, where they had a very fine

series of lower geological formations, commencing with a granite axis, and continued through the Silurian slates, with great masses of pure quartz, appearing near the granite. Over the slates lay a considerable thickness of a very hard, compact sandstone, mottled with purplish red and yellow, with numerous quartz veins running through it. This appeared to be succeeded by very thick beds of Conglomerate, apparently made up of the decomposition of the latter rock, but without limestones in it. At a distance this Conglomerate greatly resembled that at which they were now looking, but on close examination would be found to contain a large quantity of white quartz pebbles, and to be otherwise quite different in its constituent parts. This Conglomerate lay to the south of the granite axis, and appeared to dip under the Carboniferous limestone. The hard, mottled sandstone, just mentioned, lay to the north of the granite axis, and also dipped beneath the Carboniferous limestone, which was of vast thickness, and, in general, of a much harder and more crystalline character than that seen here. There were also numerous beds of hard red and grey sandstones, called Devonian on the geological map, which appeared also to intervene between the Carboniferous limestone and the lower sandstone first referred to. Over the Carboniferous limestone they had the coal measures, containing the anthracite or Kilkenny coal, and beds of fire-clay, and capped by sandstones of similar quality to those with which those present were familiar in many of their local buildings.

At the conclusion of these remarks a workman brought a tray of fossils, none of them, however, being sufficiently characteristic to decide the question whether the limestone was Carboniferous or Devonian.

Gauldon in Tolland.

Proceeding next to Tolland, the old house known as Gauldon was visited. As soon as the party had collected,

Mr. E. CHISHOLM-BATTEN, in giving some account of a

previous visit made by him, said that being informed by the owner that it was a curious place, he went there, and was received with great kindness by the occupier. From an inspection of some old deeds, it appeared that the manor was part of the property of Taunton Priory. There were fish ponds, still to be seen. On the chimney-piece would be noticed some handsome carved work, in which the arms of the Turberville family were very distinct. The ceiling was highly ornamented. There was what was said to be a chapel, and the room, he thought, looked like one in which service might have been held in the time of Elizabeth. There was a notion that Bishop Turberville retired here when compelled to leave his See of Exeter, and such a chapel would have been used privately for his Popish service.

Rev. F. BROWN remarked that no doubt the house belonged to the Turbervilles, and that they occupied it. From some notes he had collected, he found them as owners to quite a late period. In 1680, the will of George Turberville of Tolland was proved, March 18th, in which he left all his goods to his brother John. John married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Peter Fortescue, who died in 1686; and he found in the will of a gentleman named Fortescue, of Berkshire, in 1746, mention of "my daughter Turberville of Tolland." Bishop Turberville was of the family from Beer Regis; there were others seated at Crediton.

The interior was next inspected, and the ceilings and mantel-piece criticised. Some discussion then ensued as to the date of the house.

Mr. FERREY, having lately been engaged on a similar building, was of opinion that this was late Jacobean.

Mr. GREENFIELD explained the armorials and the motto on the chimney-piece.

Bishop CLIFFORD having examined the room said to have been a chapel, concluded that such was not the case, and that it was simply an ante-room.

Mr. GREEN drew attention to the screen dividing the rooms, and said that it was perfect until recently.

In the Chancery proceedings in the time of Elizabeth, there is a case of John Smith, *alias* Tucker, of Lawrence Lydeard, yeoman, against Richard and Symon Murley. The dispute was concerning a messuage and lands in Toland and Lydeard Lawrence, parcel of the manor of Galden. The 'orator' stated that George Mynne, gentleman, was seised in fee of the "Manor of Galden, with all his members," and that in March, 22nd Elizabeth, 1580, "in consideration of a great sum of money," he demised all that messuage, gardens, orchards, etc., so situate, to him and his wife, and the survivor of them, with a rent of twenty-five shillings, payable at the feasts "most usual." But "so yt ys yt maye please yo' good Lordshipp," Richard Murley and Symon Murley had by indirect and unlawful means gotten into their hands and possession the deed of lease, and by colour of a "fayned" title entered into the premises, and endeavoured wrongfully to expel the petitioner, albeit that he had often times in a friendly manner requested delivery of the deed, "yet the same he utterly refused."

If this document refers to the Manor House, it was to one now gone. It would help to show that the Turbervilles were not the Elizabethan owners, and to suggest that their first work on getting possession was the building the present house in Jacobean times. Under these circumstances, he feared that the supposed retirement here of Bishop Turberville, in Elizabethan times, so prettily worked out, as published in our *Proceedings*, vol. xxiii, must be quite abandoned.

Hartrow Manor.

A short drive brought the party to Hartrow Manor, where all were received by the Rev. W. Sweet-Escott, and most kindly entertained: a luncheon being set out in the dining room.

The Rev. W. SWEET-ESCOTT, jun., showed a plan of the old house, built about 1580. It was pulled down by his grand-

father when a portion of the present building was erected. About 1817, the hall in which they were was built. The armour and other things around the walls were nearly all of them very old; their arrangement had been made by one who had showed them to the best advantage in a remarkable way. The heraldic glass they saw in the windows was Flemish, Swiss, and Bavarian. He would be glad to give any further information they wished.

REV. W. SWEET-ESCOTT, sen., said that there was a living, that of Brompton Ralph, attached to Hartrow, in which the register had been kept from 1557—only nineteen years after the order was issued by Henry VIII. Although some of the entries were rather carelessly written, they were all quite regular down to the present time. It was seen that during the Commonwealth the marriages had been performed by the magistrates, John Turberville being one of them.

The register and the various signatures of the justices having been examined,

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Escott for his kind reception. The family was an ancient one, and one distinguished for ability. He recollected at the time of the first Reform Bill, that Lord Lyndhurst, had he succeeded in forming an administration, proposed to make one of the Escotts a Cabinet Minister.

MR. ESCOTT having acknowledged the President's attention, the Members passed out to the lawn, where some remarkable trees were seen.

The Members then sought the refreshment so kindly provided, and afterwards examined and admired a very fine tree, of especial magnitude, growing on the lawn.

A long, hard pull for the horses brought the party to

Elworthy Barrows.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS said the place was admirably suited for a camp. Perhaps he was trespassing on local tradition when he called this a camp. When he looked round

he saw what appeared to be the remains of an old rampart, although it might be anything else. The early Neolithic camps of this country were built on a slope, and made to command the ground in front—to sweep it, as it were, with arrow and stone sling-shot. They were not often found on the top of a hill. In the Neolithic times the country was divided into communities, who lived the same sort of life that the wild tribes in India did at present. Each village was at war with its neighbour, and on the look out for its cattle.

Mr. ELTON agreed with Professor Dawkins that such camps were common in the extreme West of England. They were probably Belgic. On the Blagdon Hills they found a better style of camp, evidently constructed by a more advanced people. At Clevedon some Roman camps shown him were originally Gaulish, and from this Roman occupation some of our towns had grown. Gardens, cemeteries, shops, and temples would soon follow, and the encampment became permanent. In time the Romans chose their own ground.

Sir ALEXANDER HOOD, who had joined the party here, asked what was meant by the name Cadbury; there were several in the county.

Professor DAWKINS said it meant an embattled entrenchment; a war camp.

Mr. Blommart kindly sent a drawing and the dimensions of an ancient British urn, made of unbaked clay, found in the winter of 1834-5, in a barrow in a field called Sparborough, at Willett, in the parish of Elworthy. Its outside diameter at the top is $7\frac{1}{8}$ in.; outside height, $9\frac{1}{2}$ in.; base diameter, $4\frac{7}{8}$ in.; largest circumference, $23\frac{1}{2}$ in.; circumference at top, $22\frac{1}{4}$ in.; average thickness, $\frac{1}{4}$ in. The burial place contained a circle of upright stones, about six feet in diameter, and three feet high. On one side was a square cavity, about fifteen inches in diameter, inclosed with flat stones, containing this urn, with fragments and ashes of burnt bones. There were also pieces of another urn. The perfect one is in the possession of General Blommart.

Mr. ELTON had lately opened a barrow near his own house, and had found several of these urns. In one were the bones of a grown person, and those of a child; from which he concluded that the bones of a mother and her child had been burned together.

Sir ALEXANDER HOOD asked if it were usual to find a good supply of water near these camps. There were many capital springs near this one.

Professor DAWKINS said it did not seem to be always the case.

Raleigh's Cross.

Proceeding to Raleigh's Cross Inn, a welcome and most excellent luncheon was found ready, provided by the thoughtful care and kindness of the President.

Rev. F. BROWN, at the conclusion of the repast, in a few appropriate sentences, thanked the President for his hospitality.

The PRESIDENT having acknowledged this courtesy, the Members adjourned, well pleased and surprised at finding, in this distant quarter, such a luncheon, and so well served.

This so-called 'cross' is simply a land-mark, dividing the manors of Nettlecombe formerly owned by the Raleighs, and Clatworthy, the now properties of Trevelyan and Carew.

The following information regarding it is contributed by Mr. Beamer, as gathered by him from Mr. Babbage, now aged, but for many years steward to the Trevelyan estates. The same office was held also by his father before him, their term together counting over a hundred years. Mr. Babbage learned from his father and grandfather that the 'cross' was erected when Nettlecombe was owned by the Raleighs, the hill being then an open common, and traversed only by pack-horses from Bampton to Watchet. The paths or tracts are still visible in the cultivated fields. The 'cross' was fixed by the side of a dangerous bog, called the snipe bog, in a field below and north-west of where it now stands, as a mark of danger and a warning to travellers to keep to the south side of it. The bog is still visible, but

is now partially drained. When the hill was enclosed—about forty or fifty years ago—and a road cut from Sticklepath Gate, the ‘cross’ was standing in its original place by the bog; but by order of Sir Walter Trevelyan, Mr. Babbage then removed it, and put it where it now is, as a boundary stone, parting the Trevelyan and Carew properties.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS, standing on the base of the ‘cross,’ gave a short account of the

Brendon Mines.

His recollections of the Brendon mines were comparatively ancient. Some twenty years ago he had the pleasure of examining them rather critically. According to tradition, these mines had originally been worked by the Romans. The evidence for that consisted in the lines of old refuse heaps and *scoriæ*, which ran in an eastern and western direction. He regretted that he had not a map there that day whereon this was recorded. There was nothing very interesting in the mines themselves. He would, however, give them an account of the

Origin of Minerals:

of the condition and mode in which they found their way into the veins.

The rocks had been traversed by a series of fissures, running east and west in this district, and a very curious thing had happened. The water falling from the clouds had found its way into these fissures, and sunk deeper and deeper into them. He need hardly say that the earth was a cooling body, just in the same way as a hot brick was a cooling body. The water gradually descended deeper and deeper, obeying the law of gravitation. Another set of agents then came into play. The internal parts of the earth were so hot, that no idea of their heat could be formed. The same sort of circulation went on in the earth as in a boiler or kettle of water on the fire. In the case of the earth, the water did not boil, however, because of the enormous pressure at great depths,

and because it gradually cooled as it approached the surface. The water, enormously heated, would dissolve almost any thing. For instance, if a wine glass were put in the boiler of a steam engine, a considerable portion of it would dissolve away. If a piece of glass, or a piece of sandstone composed of silica, be put in a closed cylinder, highly heated, it will also dissolve away. That was just what happened in the earth. The water, under the above conditions, exercised an enormous chemical effect upon any thing that came in contact with it, and thus it became laden or charged with mineral matter. This matter, as the heated water rose, and as the pressure and heat diminished, was deposited in the cracks, and formed mineral veins. This involved another consideration. In those times of which he had been speaking, to allow this deposit to have taken place, these hills must have been many thousands of feet beneath the surface of the earth. That idea conveyed an impression of time almost infinite. Vast changes had taken place. The deeper rocks had been elevated. The rocks formerly buried miles beneath the sea were lifted up, and were now our hills and valleys. It was the land that had always changed—not the level of the sea.

Mr. WINWOOD added a few words as to the geology of the ‘cross.’ The upright limb was composed of Triassic Conglomerate, of the same age, probably, as that they had seen yesterday, though of very much finer texture. It had been selected with a purpose from one of the finer beds of the mass, and contained something of much interest on its south side, which he had never seen in that Conglomerate before. It consisted, as they saw, of the usual small pebbles, more or less rounded; and amongst them, on the south face, was a fragment of Chert or impure flint. Did not that tend to corroborate the view he had ventured to take with regard to the Castle Rock quarry? He questioned whether his learned friend, Professor Boyd Dawkins, had ever found a piece of chert, in a Devonian pebble.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS said it seemed to him that before Mr. Winwood's remarks obtained that point, which it was his wish they should obtain, he would have to prove that there was no such thing as chert in the Devonian rocks, and if he did that he would have to work very hard indeed.

Huish Champflower.

A comfortable and gentle descent—an agreeable change—passing by the way the Dun stone and the source of the river Tone, brought the excursionists to Huyschechamfflour, as it was written in olden time.

The Church.

The Rector, the Rev. W. King, received the party.

Mr. FERREY, describing the edifice, pointed out some peculiarities externally in the bell chamber: there seemed to be a double range of windows—one range blocked up forming small niches. The tower arch within was very remarkable; there were no piers, and the character was very plain for a church built in the Perpendicular period. The nave arcade was certainly the most curious that he had seen in this neighbourhood. Notwithstanding some of the detail being apparently of earlier date, he should take it to be of early Decorated period. The character and plan of the piers were of that period; the capitals were very shallow, and the carving was very much of the character common to this part of Somerset. The very beautiful large window was evidently of the transition period, between the Decorated and Perpendicular; the two quatrefoils in the tracery would be noticed, these marking the differentiation, not being at all usual in pure Perpendicular windows. Externally the mouldings were very good; not shallow and poor, as many Perpendicular mouldings were. With regard to this window, he was surprised that such great authorities as Clayton and Bell had attributed it to the thirteenth century: he should certainly place it in the fourteenth. There were signs of a rood-loft, which had extended across the nave and aisles.

Bishop CLIFFORD said it appeared to him that the entrance to the rood-turret and the rood-loft must be older than the arcade, and that the rood-loft did not belong to it. There must have been an earlier church, as could be seen by the masonry on the outside. Perhaps this chapel was a part of it.

Rev. W. KING, the Rector, said that the large window came from Barlynch Priory, but there was no document to prove this; the story had come to them by tradition. There had been alterations, he thought, in the church. This corner was the private chapel of the Lady of the Manor, and the doorway her private entrance.

The remainder of the journey homeward was easily made, and the hotel was reached by half-past six.

Evening Meeting.

The chair was taken punctually at the time appointed. There was a large attendance, the room being quite full. The PRESIDENT first read a letter from Mr. F. H. Dickinson, expressing regret at not being able to attend. Mr. Dickinson having recently visited Witham Friary, wished to draw attention to the fishponds there, as he thought they should be surveyed. The water supplying them seemed to have been diverted from the stream and carried along the edge of the hill on the south-east side of the valley; this valley being divided by three or four large earth banks to form the ponds. As he saw no gaps in the stream he concluded that pipes were used to maintain the water supply.

Mr. FERREY then read a paper on the Somerset type of church compared with that of some other counties. It will be found printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Ferrey for a paper of considerable value. In one particular he thought Mr. Ferrey was mistaken. He had said that people were usually buried on the south side of the church, because the north was gloomy. His

own opinion was that the south side was used because the door was generally on that side, and the living thus had to pass the graves of their departed friends in going to and from the church.

Bishop CLIFFORD remarked that it was new to him that there should be any similarity between the churches of Cornwall and Devon. To his mind they formed an illustration of how the material of a district entirely changed the character of the church, and it appeared to him that in the churches of Cornwall, and the greater number of those in Devon, there was scarcely anything in common. He thought the beauty of the towers in Somerset was in a great measure owing to the destruction from natural decay, or otherwise, of the earlier ones, and the consequent re-building by the same architect. The question of how far the possibility of storms, earthquakes, and other phenomena had influenced the style in different districts was a wide one, upon which some information might be gained.

Rev. H. H. WINWOOD said that they had had one side of the shield held up to them, but there was another. As one who had dabbled in geology, he was exceedingly pleased to hear an architect refer to and recognise the influence of the local geological formation on the architecture of the country. The question as to how far the churches of a county derived their style and architectural features from the mother church of the district had been overlooked. If the mother church were a magnificent building as at Bath, or at Wells, the architect would with fair certainty take from these his idea for other edifices near them. They would thus very often find the details of the grander building copied in surrounding churches.

Mr. FERREY, in reply, reiterated his opinion that where the best stone was found, there was found the best architecture. He then remarked on the points of similarity between Cornish and Devon churches; but, structurally speaking, he would not say that they were similar. He did not think the fact of the entrance being usually on the south side had much to do with

the graves being on that side; nor could he agree that the mother church was taken as the model or pattern for other churches in the district.

The PRESIDENT then called on the

Rev. FREDK. BROWN, who read a paper on some Star Chamber proceedings, relating to events in the neighbourhood of Wiveliscombe, about three hundred years ago. He explained that the Star Chamber Court was established simply by an ordinance of Henry VIII, and was probably called the Star Chamber as being held in a chamber ornamented with stars.² The fines inflicted by this Court were so heavy that he wondered how they were ever paid. Yet it was a very lawless time, and perhaps some irresponsible power may have been necessary.

Mr. Brown's paper is printed in Part II.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS next contributed some remarks on the interesting collection of roughly-shaped stone implements exhibited by Mr. Elton in the Local Museum. These implements had been found in this district, and so far as he knew, only in one place, viz., the valley of the Axe. That they were of human origin there could be no doubt, and it was, therefore, clear that in ancient times man was living in the valley of the Axe, in a place which was now covered by twenty or thirty feet of sand and gravel. The question that would occur to them was "What sort of man was he?" and upon that point he thought they were able to get a tolerably clear idea. In the first place, these implements were of the rudest and roughest type—just the sort of implements that would be used for the purpose of knocking a man down, opening an oyster, or cracking a nut. Implements of this kind had been found in various places in association with various animals. For instance, supposing he were to take them to the neighbourhood

(2). This was so. In early documents it is called the "Sterred" chamber; showing clearly the origin of the name. The final 'ed' is hardly detected in conversation, and would be easily dropped.—E. G.

of Salisbury, he would show that these men hunted such animals as the mammoth, the rhinoceros, and the bear. He had no doubt that the men who left the implements in the valley of the Axe were in the habit of hunting these animals in that district. In putting these points before them he was dealing with the fringe of a very great subject. Implements of this sort were widely spread over the whole of Europe. They were found not only in the South of England, but in France, across the Pyrenees, on the sites of Madrid and Lisbon. Implements of the same sort had been found in the North-west of Africa, in Italy, and even in Egypt; and it was supposed that the ancient Egyptian civilisation was contemporary with the barbarism of these ages. When they saw these implements near the tomb of Memphis, they had evidence that even in the cradle of civilisation this barbarous sort of hunter once lived. They had evidence of his existence between Jerusalem and Jericho. It was a very remarkable fact that throughout the greater portion of the Indian Peninsula, south of the line traversed by the great rivers, these implements were found—sometimes with existing and sometimes with extinct animals. Some remains of buffaloes and other creatures were found with them in those regions. It was interesting to know that this hunter hunted these animals in the jungles of India. Even now he had not exhausted the inquiry. Some few years ago he had the good fortune to make an expedition to the United States, and there he had the opportunity of obtaining these implements in the valley of the Delaware. So they saw that this was a problem of no inconsiderable importance. In the valley of the Delaware they found with the implements a reindeer and the horse; so that in the new world, as well as in the old, they had evidence of this type of hunter; and they must look upon the implements they saw in that room as representing a world-wide type of barbarism. They would ask him what type it was. He could only tell them that these implements represented to his mind the very earliest race of man which they had met with up to

the present time. If he were asked to explain why it was they were so widely spread and so uniform, he could only answer in one way, namely, that these implements represented a primeval condition of barbarism, out of which mankind had through long ages gradually emerged. He did not know that he could add very much to that idea, but he might mention that occasionally fragments of human bones had been found in association with these remains. They were not sufficient to tell them anything about the physique of these people, but they told them one thing worth knowing—that this primeval man who used these implements was not a missing link—not half man and half monkey; but that he had bones very much as they had, and he did not know that he differed very much from the lower types of mankind at the present time. But they had a newer race of man, also found in Somerset, and also associated with those animals which he had mentioned, and which were so admirably represented in the Taunton Museum; that was to say, the man known under the name of the Cave Man. In Wookey Cave, Mr. Sanford and himself were fortunate enough to make a series of discoveries which pointed beyond doubt to the existence in that district of a higher type of man than that type which he had just mentioned. That man was essentially a hunter, unacquainted with the arts of agriculture, unaccompanied in that hunting even by the dog. He was just a rude hunter, but he was a higher type of hunter than the one who went before him, and he was in the habit occasionally of representing by illustrations the animals which he hunted. They found representations of the reindeer and the mammoth, in the caves of this country, as also in France, in Switzerland, and in Belgium. The general result of the whole of this line of inquiry was to show that he was in all probability identical in race with the Esquimaux. Thus among the primeval inhabitants they had first the nameless hunter to whom they might apply the term of the River Drift hunter, and then in the long course of ages they had the higher type of hunter known as the Cave Man.

Then, as to the interval which separated these two races of men, and these strange extinct animals to which he had alluded—the elephant, the rhinoceros, and other creatures which were hunted by them in this country—from the present order of things, he would say, that in the long course of ages, the animals which had become extinct disappeared gradually, and a new set of creatures came in, the latter represented by the domestic animals—pigs, cows, domestic horses, dogs, and the like, all under the guardianship of man. The arts of agriculture, too, appeared, and all these were associated with other implements which they would see in the Museum—those stone axes, which had been ground to a good edge, and which were now named the Neolithic axes, or the polished stone axes of a later age. Then came bronze implements, and subsequently iron was brought into use. Thus they found themselves confronted with the dawn of history in this part of the world. If they asked him how long these things were separated from the present day, he must frankly say that he was not able to offer even a guess. He could only fix his data by historical records—by written documents, in which he found not merely a certain string of events recorded, but in which he could also measure the intervals between events, and when he reviewed the documentary evidence in his survey of the remote past, he had no means of measuring the intervals in terms of years. Therefore it would be ridiculous in him to give them a date in terms of years of the time when these most ancient inhabitants of Somerset were living in the district.

Bishop CLIFFORD, in proposing thanks to Professor Boyd Dawkins, said the address given was especially of interest, as they must remember they were enquiring not only for antiquities, but on all points relating to natural history. It was a matter for great congratulation that they had Mr. Dawkins in their Society. When they were that day at Raleigh's Cross, Mr. Dawkins had given them an account, most interesting, and beyond value, of the origin of the veins of mineral in the earth.

He believed this was the first time that Mr. Dawkins had publicly propounded his theory. Any one who knew how carefully he worked upon such matters, and the influence accorded his opinion by scientific men, would feel sure that his theory would be ultimately adopted as the solution of a great difficulty.

MR. A. J. MONDAY had prepared a paper on two early Somerset wills, but being unable to be personally present, one, that of Richard Yea, as especially relating to Wiveliscombe, was read by the Hon. Sec. Mr. Monday's paper will be found printed in Part II.

THE HON. SEC. as he read, made some few comments in explanation, remarking on the then value of money, that the 20s. per annum bequeathed, would now be £20, and other values the same. The bequests to the Vicar, and for the repair of the Cathedral, were no doubt the remains of an old custom, so happily noted at Chard last year by Mr. E. B. Tylor. The bequest of silver, always found in these wills, and the great value set upon it, marks to us, with our many substitutes, a great change in this respect. All household goods and decorations were highly valued, as was the constantly recurring feather bed and belongings, not a cheap article now, if you get it, but then, without doubt, entirely home-made, and heavily filled. The testator takes care that his widow should have all that she brought to him—her napery, beades, and girdles. The mention of wagon and putt, with the wheels bound with iron, seems to show that such things were rare. By the bequest of the "table-boord" in the hall, and the bar of iron with the pot-hangers in the chimney, we see that those things which we now leave for a scramble or for the auctioneer, were included. These wills are, in fact, almost catalogues, and, like our auction sale, they served all purposes for a division.

THE HON. SEC. had ready a paper on the History of Dulverton, but as it was now time to separate, to prepare for the early start on the morrow, he asked that it might be taken

as read, especially as it did not relate to Wiveliscombe. The paper is printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT then said that as this would be the last meeting in that hall, he took the opportunity to thank the Local Committee at Wiveliscombe for the great kindness the Society had received at their hands, and he would especially name the Secretaries—Mr. Luttley and Capt. Hancock.

The proposition was carried with acclamation.

Capt. HANCOCK, in acknowledging the President's remarks, on behalf of himself and Mr. Luttley, said that they, and their fellow-townsmen, most highly appreciated the visit of the Society, and were pleased that their efforts for their welfare had been so satisfactory.

The proceedings then terminated.

Thursday's Excursion.

The start was made rather earlier than usual; a goodly number leaving Wiveliscombe station by the 8.20 train, for Dulverton. At the station there conveyances were found ready, and the weather being perfect for the occasion, the Members enjoyed a drive through this picturesque district which will not soon be forgotten.

Brushford Church.

The first visit was to Brushford church, where the Society was welcomed by the Rev. C. St. Barbe Sydenham, the Vicar.

Mr. FERREY, describing the church, said it appeared to be all of the same period, the early Perpendicular. Commencing with the tower, this was very severe and plain; the arch was a good specimen, and nicely moulded. The manner in which the bell chamber was finished at the top was to him quite unique: he had examined its windows, they were original, and had not been tampered with. The peculiarity was that the string-course running round the tower served as the head to the windows. The font, he was informed by Mr. Dawkins,

was of Purbeck marble. It was not quite as originally designed, the stem being now simply a block of stone. It had been supported by several shafts, and looked like Norman, but as it much resembled the Cornish fonts of the 14th and 15th centuries, he would not say decidedly that it was Norman. If it were Norman, there must have been an earlier church there. The rood-loft was a splendid specimen, but the tracery of the screen under it was a good deal mutilated. The ceiling was of the same type as those seen on the previous days; the ribs, with the bosses, still remained.

REV. C. ST. BARBE SYDENHAM said the walls of the chancel were rebuilt some years ago, but the roof had not been interfered with.

By kind invitation the Members proceeded to the Rectory, where, with great consideration, breakfast was found hospitably spread. As it was necessary to divide for mutual convenience; whilst some discussed the viands, others examined in another room the pedigree of the Sydenham family, with several portraits and other paintings; as also a collection of fossils from Eller's quarry and the neighbourhood, and some iron from End Hill quarry and Exmoor. The Secretary, rather anxious, remembering the heavy day's work to be done, was obliged at last to sound his call for an advance, and the party proceeded to

Combe House.

Capt. T. MARRIOT-DODINGTON here took up the guidance, and explained that since he had owned the house some alterations had been made, but he had in his hand a pen-and-ink sketch of it as it formerly was. The remaining portion was supposed to be Elizabethan, but there were traces of an earlier building, and at one time there had evidently been some means of defence, and a drawbridge round by the bowling-green. He then led the way to the interior, which he remarked had remained unaltered. Some time was spent here, examining the various curiosities and the panelling of the rooms.

Dr. PRING, speaking from the lawn, observed that they were here in the midst of a truly Keltic district, where Keltic place-names abound; and where barrows and other Keltic features were found in profusion. The British word, *cwm*—combe,—which gave a name to this mansion, and which formed the suffix in the name of the town in which they had met (Wiveliscombe) was more frequent in Somerset than in any other county. The Keltic word, *cwrt*—court, was also frequent, as was testified by the number of court houses and courts everywhere met with. In this particular district they had, too, the Kymric prefix, *tre*, in Treborough and in Trescombe; *i.e.*, *Tre-is-cwm*—the dwelling at the foot of the vale. They had, further, the Keltic *caer* in Carhampton, just as it was in Cardiff, etc. Leather Barrow was a corruption of the Keltic word, *l.lethr*—a steep ascent; the side of a hill.

Hawkridge.

Slowly, all in good time, the drive was now commenced for Exmoor. Leisurely strolling, with much walking and a little riding, a charming journey was made through the lanes and woods, by the banks of the rivers, with a charming sky and glorious sun above to make all perfect. Arrived on the summit a halt was called, to gather the stragglers and rest the horses—and, above all, to enjoy a scene so new to the majority.

Rev. C. ST. BARBE SYDENHAM pointed out the principal features of the district surrounding. To the south, on the opposite side of the river Barle, which flows round it on three sides, was a circular hill of considerable size, called Mouncey, or Mounceaux, Castle. Just near the brow of the hill, hidden by a thick growth of underwood, was a massive wall or rampart of earth and stones, for the most part loosely put together, but exhibiting here and there traces of more careful workmanship, not unlike the old British remains at Worle. Inside this wall, which went quite round the hill, was a ditch, from six to twelve feet wide. Some nine miles further up the Barle was a similar mound, on a hill, called Cae, or Cow, Castle.

He attributed both to Belgic-British occupation. Hawkridge Castle, a steep bluff overhanging the Dune Brook; and Brewers Castle, occupying a like position on the Barle, were next pointed out. There were no traces of earth or stone wall to be seen at these spots, and they probably served as outlooks to the encampment on the opposite side. Turning westward, the course of the Dune Brook, a mountain stream flowing into the Barle at a spot called Castle Bridge, could be followed for some distance towards its source on Exmoor Forest. This stream was called, in the old forest surveys, the Dunmokes Broke, and formed then, as now, one of the boundaries between the counties of Devon and Somerset. To the north, some ten miles distant, Dunkery Beacon—the highest point save one in the West of England—could be seen distinctly; and to the north-west, at a still further distance, the green slopes and romantic combes of the once royal forest of Exmoor caught the eye, lighted up by the sunshine of a glorious summer day.

Dr. PRING quite agreed that where the name Castle was associated with large earth-works or camps of the Belgic-British type just referred to, it pointed to their Keltic origin. It was the true Keltic word, “castell,” was prevalent throughout Wales; and in one instance in this county they still had the true Keltic idiom, in which the general descriptive word is placed first and the personal or specific word follows it, actually preserved in Castle Neroche. Numerous other instances, however, in which this name was applied to gigantic earth-works, were no less truly Keltic; an example being furnished by the Belgic-British camp at Wiveliscombe, which is known only as “Castle.”

Hawkridge Church,

about two miles from the resting place, kindly left open for inspection, was passed, as time was precious, and the party proceeded gently to

Torr Steps.

The scene here being so new, and the structure itself so novel, a few minutes were again allowed for a general rest and survey, and to enable the weary to come up.

Rev. R. L. BAMPFIELD, of West Anstey, here volunteered some information. It was a place to which he often came for a quiet afternoon or a little pic-nic. Some stones, as they saw, called steps, formed a kind of bridge across the Barle. He would not pretend to say anything about the date of them. He had carefully measured the bridge, and found that the length, including the approaches, was 180 feet. It was five feet wide, the covering stones being about six inches thick. There were seventeen spans, with an average of fifteen feet between the piers, the widest being in the centre. The height, when the water was at its ordinary level, was three feet; the average depth of the water was two feet two inches, but in times of flood it rushed over the top. The most puzzling thing was the question of its antiquity. He had been informed that there were bridges of this character in China, of a comparatively recent origin. There was a legend about this bridge. Another name for it was the Devil's Bridge; a common name in many places. They had one on Dartmoor, one in North Wales, and one in Switzerland. The legend here was that the Devil formed this bridge entirely for his own benefit; and being, of course, spiteful, he determined that it should not be used by mortal man. He raised it in one night; but, towards morning, coming with the finishing load of stones, his apron-string broke, and the stones fell to the ground. One of these was to be seen at Mouncey Castle, another is in the wood hard by. Taking his seat at a picturesque spot, near the bridge, he denounced destruction upon the first creature which should venture to cross. From the one side a cat was cunningly sent over, and as it touched the other side it was torn to pieces. The spell being thus broken, the parson was the next to cross, when some very uncomplimentary words, of the

Wm. Gidgood, Nov. 1895.

Torr Steps, on the Barle, Somerset



pot and kettle order, passed between the two. The Devil called the parson a black crow; to which the parson replied that he was not blacker than the Devil. The Devil seems to have retired from the combat, and the bridge was then open, and here it was still. As it was supposed to be not quite finished—and he believed there were signs that it was intended to go farther—perhaps this would be accounted for by the accident to the apron-strings. The name Torr had sorely troubled people: some had supposed that it came from Thor, the Saxon god. They had a Torr Farm close by, and also the surname as Tarr common in the neighbourhood.

Professor BOYD-DAWKINS said he would call attention to a very obvious fact—that this bridge represented a well-defined stage in the development of bridge building. They saw in these stones the first improvement upon stepping-stones. The first idea was of arranging stepping-stones, by which people could pass over a stream without getting their feet wet. In the course of time it was found advisable to choose higher stepping-stones. In the course of ages it struck some brilliant inventive genius to pile up the stones, and then to place flat stones across the others, to form a rude bridge. This kind of bridge was not uncommon with early races. This was one of the most rudimentary specimens of a bridge which could be found all the world over. He knew of nothing which would help him to fix the date. He had never seen one exactly like it. It might possibly have been a track-way, traversed by the Kelts of the district. It was a very singular structure. The stones, he thought, were of Devonian rock; and the local circumstances did not imply that a great labour would be required in bringing them there. They would be carried by means of poles lashed to them, on men's shoulders.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD said it had been his intention to have prepared a paper on the Culm Measures, some portion of which they had passed over in their morning's drive, but recent absence from England had prevented him from doing so. He

would, therefore, make some general remarks upon the Devonian beds of this district, for further details he must refer the Members to a paper in their *Proceedings*, written a few years ago by Mr. Ussher, of the *Geological Survey*. Looking at the geological map kindly held up by the Professor, they would see that they had been passing from the Culm Measures, a series of Carbonaceous shales and grits, on to the Devonian rocks; *i.e.*, from strata of a more recent to those of a more ancient date. These beds may be said to have a general strike from N.W. to S.E.; of course the disturbances which have taken place through a long series of past time, have caused many variations from this normal strike, and added much to the difficulty in tracing their proper succession. At the same time it is owing to the absence of this uniformity in the strata that the charming irregularities in the surface contour of the country, and the varied nature of rolling hill and deep combes through which the Members have passed, are due. These beds then which have caused so much controversy, may be divided into upper, middle, and lower Devonian. The upper consisting of a series of greenish slates and brown grits, called Pilton and Baggy beds, resting upon a mass of grey, purple, and lilac Sandstones, called Pickwell Down grits, from their great development at Pickwell Down, near Morte Bay. The middle are composed of a series of glossy slates, unfossiliferous in their upper portions, and called Morte slates, succeeded by the Ilfracombe slates with limestone bands; sometimes this limestone consists merely of rotten brown patches and pockets, but wherever these lenticular patches of limestone occur, these fossils are found. Below these come in a series of coarse siliceous grits, called Hangman grits; then succeed the Lower Devonians of the Foreland, a series of grits and sandstones about which very little is at present known. However, without wearying too much with any more geological details—probably a very dry subject to many present—he would merely remind them that the geology of the ancient Torr Steps before

them could be easily read. They had just heard that these steps had been brought here by the aid of the Devil. Geologists, who knew anything of the district, did not require his assistance to account for their presence; doubtless any number of slabs of that nature might be found close at hand by a little searching, as they were composed of the purplish grits of those very Pickwell Down basement beds of the Upper Devonians, on which they were then, or had been recently, standing.

Mr. LANGRISHE observed it occurred to him that the name Torr was only the Somerset mode of pronouncing Toher, which is the Anglicised form of the Keltic word *Tochar*—a causeway commonly written Togher in Irish names. (See Joyce's *Dictionary of Irish Names*). Many Tohers still exist in Ireland, and the name is often found in use where causeways were made in ancient times over bogs and streams. His native place, in the County of Kilkenny, is called Knocktopher, anciently *Cnoc*—a tochar, the hill at the causeway. The ancient tochar still exists there over the stream, formed of great flags of Devonian rock, and constructed in much the same way as this one, though much less in extent. He was acquainted with a great number of Keltic structures, formed as this is, of large flag stones, laid without mortar—on rough blocks; laid either on their natural beds, or set on edge or on end, according to the purpose for which the structure was intended, whether causeway, dolmen, or giant's grave. He had no doubt whatever that this is an ancient Keltic causeway. They had just heard the amusing legend of the work having been performed by the Devil. There are many such legends attached to ancient structures, and if they are in general such useful works as this one, the legendary personage who erected them must have been a very good sort. Amongst the wonderful works ascribed to him, he might mention the Devil's Bit Mountain, in Tipperary. In one of his journeys through Ireland, the Devil is said to have been carrying his mother on his back (another good deed), and as his way lay across this steep range of hills, in order to save the

labour of climbing over it, he bit out a piece, and formed the large chasm known as the Devil's Bit; he is said to have carried the piece between his teeth until he came to Cashel, where he dropped it, and it became the famous Rock. There is the little difficulty to be got over, that the mountain is a hard grey sandstone, and the Rock of Cashel is carboniferous limestone, a point which he would leave to the two Professors present to explain. On looking at the map, it seemed clear that the route by Torr Steps was in the easiest line from Barnstaple to Minehead and the south coast of the Bristol Channel. This would suggest further that they had formed part of a principal road from the earliest times.

This derivation, and the consequent origin of the Steps, was accepted as the right one, and as settling all other speculations. In the conversation which ensued, it was remarked as to any difficulty in getting such stones in place, that they could easily be floated down attached to timber, in favourable states of the river. The combined power of many men too could do it. In India, now, a large number of men may often be seen moving heavy stones slung from poles carried on the shoulders. The earliest form of bridge would be the most simple; the number of spans, and the flat top stones, from one to more, being increased to meet requirements. These in time give place to the arch, and with it to heavier structures.

The return was made by another route, across the moor to Mouncey Gate. At Mouncey Gate the stag hounds had met a little earlier, and it happened that the stag passed but a few yards from the foremost of the party. The difficulties of the descent, necessarily very slow with heavy vehicles, had not been quite allowed for, so that fully half an hour was lost from the calculated time, not much in so difficult a journey. Arrived at Dulverton, however, a most welcome and excellent luncheon was found ready, well served by mine host of the Lion. A rather long time too, was taken here, and Members gathered but slowly at the

Parish Church,

where they were received by the Rev. F. T. Bassett, the Vicar.

Mr. FERREY said the building was much like the Cornish churches in plan: the nave and chancel being under one continuous roof, and the aisles extended from end to end the same height as the nave and chancel. The tower was older than the rest of the church. The nave arcade was of the type found in North-west Somerset and in Devon, the capitals being of very small height, but with some delicate carving in them; a screen formerly divided the nave and chancel. The roof was of the characteristic style of Somerset.

Rev. F. T. BASSETT stated that when the church was "re-stored" it was made nine feet wider, and so they had sacrificed the proportions of the building for the area gained. The old columns had been re-erected.

Mr. GREEN mentioned that in 4th Rich. II, the rectory of Bryfford had land under the Manor of Dulverton. On the death of the rector, in 6th Rich. II, an attempt was made to claim this for Dulverton Manor, the result being a suit in the King's Court, where, after trial, Dulverton lost, and the jury found that "a carucate of land, called Nottuford, worth thirteen shillings and fourpence, was part of the glebe of Brifford. The Vicar of Dulverton paid six shillings per annum to the Priory of Taunton, but he seems to have been lax in this matter, as in 1318, according to the Register of Bishop Drovensford, writs were issued against him for non-payment on the 12th January and 26th October, 1318, and again 21st April, 1319. In 1445, the vicar was charged thirteen pence for a subsidy against the Saracens and Turks. In 1289, the dues payable to the Priory amounted to £3, and this sum was found the same in 1535. At the dissolution, Henry VIII gave the parsonage to John Carse, yeoman, the bailiff of the Lordship of Dulverton for his life, at a rent of £12 13s. 4d.; also all the rectory of Dulverton, parcel of the Priory of Taunton, and all the tithes of the rectory and the capital mansion of the same, with the

Court Barn, and two closes called Strayers Park containing four acres; the great trees and woods growing on the said premises to be excepted. Carse also got two pieces called Buggethole and Lewcote. By patent, 1st Mary, 1553, the Queen granted the rectory, with the annual rent of £12 13s. 4d., and all the site of the capital mansion, the tithes, etc., subject to the life interest of John Carse, to the Dean and Chapter of Wells "in free, pure, and perpetual alms," with whom it still remains. Several early transfers and matters relating to small holdings of land are found, by themselves of no interest, but as a whole they enable us to get a glimpse of the gradual emancipation from villeinage, the rise of the copyholder, so to the small and larger freeholder, and with their rise the many changes as the result. Whether the names of properties are associated with the names of individuals or the individuals give their names to their properties, may be thought of, and perhaps save much speculation. In 4th Edward III, Walter de Pykaston (Pixton) had a messuage and four furlongs of land, a very small lot but not to be had easily, which he held by "the services due to the Lord of the Fee." Whether for the same property, or whether this quantity was then the usual sub-division, in 18th Henry VII there is an agreement between John Halswell for a messuage and four furlongs of land in Pykateston, the rent being now six shillings and eightpence per quarter. There were larger holdings, as in 9th Edward IV there was an agreement or concord, in which several names are included, for 146 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 82 acres of wood, and 116 acres heath and gorse, in Dulverton; and for 30 acres of land called Aysshewey Monceaux, which John Monceaux then held for his life. There were other lands called Hyndesham, which John Hyndesham held for his life; others called Aysshewey Raleigh; and others called Chillcote, which John Chillcote held for his life. In 15th Henry VII, Thomas Broughton held 120 acres of land in Luscombe, and Spyre, and Dulverton; and in Lussecombe there was another holding of 60 acres. One of

those curious episodes met with in early days occurred here, when, in 15th Edward III, 1341, William Patrich of Dulverton, Simon de Raleigh of Nettlecombe, with the Vicar of Dulverton, and others, attacked and "unjustly ousted" Thomas Comyn from a tenement in Dulverton and fifteen acres of land and half an acre of meadow. A little, apparently very small, further episode is of interest, as it relates to questions which in a few years must be matters of curiosity and wonder. In 1663, Mr. Edward Phelips, junr., acting as a magistrate, reported in a letter to London, "We are come from Sessions and only one nonconformist tried, who promised conformity at our mercy, upon a fine of six shillings and eightpence." Then he concludes, "The Devil of Dulverton is well at Sessions, and I am to meet him on Wednesday at Dulverton." This gentleman seems to have been partial to the district from an early time. The name was formerly sometimes written *Dauerton*; pronounced, perhaps, as *Dawverton*.

Dr. PRING then raised the question as to the meaning and derivation of the name of *Dulverton*. The guide books were right in discarding the notion that it had anything to do either with the place or its inhabitants being in any way dull, but no solution of the name had, so far as he knew, been hitherto suggested. We must here follow the rule of seeking its etymology in the oldest known form of name, viz., the Keltic, which would be drawn from the natural features of the place. Now it is admitted that there was formerly *a ford* here over the river Barle, and this river presents to us at this point a very remarkable *bend*, as may readily be seen by reference to the ordnance map. *Dól*, then, in the Keltic, means "a bend in a stream or river," and if we take this in connection with the existence of a ford at this point, we shall get *Dól-ford-ton*, the ford-town at the bend of the river. This certainly agrees with the natural features of the place, and if any one will pronounce the word *Dól-ford-ton* he will see how readily it passes into *Dulverton*. Much less violence is here done to the original than in many

other instances,—as in Bridgwater for Burg Walter, Brighton for Brighthelmston, and other similar examples. It is interesting to note that in the adjoining county of Devon we have the two names which we here find combined in Dulverton—Dolfordton, somewhat widely separated and each possessed of only one distinctive feature. Thus, at Crediton we have the name of *Fordton*, on a stream which joins the Creedy. This, however, as the name implies, was merely an ancient *ford*, and presents us with no bend at this point. Again, six miles north of Hatherleigh, we find a remarkable *bend* in the river Torridge, just similar to that in the Barle at Dulverton, and here the Keltic *Dól* presents itself; but as in this case no ford apparently ever existed at the spot, it furnishes simply the name of *Dolton* to the parish by this deep bend in the river.

Getting again to the conveyances, a quiet drive brought the party to

Wleir Rock.

This rock, the great feature of interest for the afternoon, is close on the main road, adjoining a quarry, a few hundred yards beyond Barlinch ruins.

THE HON. SEC., as soon as all had come up, said that the rock was supposed to have a very special interest, as the markings they saw on it had been attributed to glacial action—to the slow downward movement of a large mass of ice, in those long, long distant ages they had heard about, but found probably so difficult to realise before giving the subject some careful study. The doubt would be settled to-day.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS said this was the first time he had ever seen those marks. They looked very much like the marks left by glaciers in some parts of the world. At Llanberis Pass there were marks on the rocks which must have been produced by glaciers; and in the Pyrenees, and the valley of the Garonne, grooves like these upon the rock, with lines of ferns and various shrubs upon them, were visible. At Llanberis and in the Garonne there would be no doubt they were carved

by the action of ice, gliding on large masses of stone, which acted in the same way as a diamond did on glass and iron. But he was obliged to draw a distinction between the marks before him and those which he had alluded to as being so like them. These most admirable examples of carving in rocks were brought about by very dissimilar causes. When we compared the marks here with the marks in the stone quarry just behind, there could be no doubt that these had been brought about in the same manner as those which they saw on the rock surface there. In this particular instance it was perfectly clear that ice did not make the marks. The next question that interested them was how they had been produced. They were produced in a manner which many of them who had studied the surface of the earth were familiar with. The rocks had been traversed by lines of breakage. One side of a fracture in the rock had been moved over the other side, just in the same manner as they saw one thing sometimes fall over another. They might have been produced swiftly, or they might have taken 10,000 years. This point was of very great interest to him. The marks of the glacier action in this sunny region of England were most unsatisfactory. On the other side of the Severn they found any number of marks which owed their existence to the action of ice. He did not believe that this part of the country was affected by glaciers in the same way as other parts north of the Severn. The question of the distribution of masses of ice was one of very considerable interest and importance, but he was not able to recognise it in this instance. These grooves were caused by a moving mass of rock operating in a fissure, or in what was known to geologists by the term "slickensides"—where one side of a rock slid down the other. He would now make way for Mr. Winwood, who would perhaps give them another side of the shield.

Mr. WINWOOD said that he was quite unable, in the present case, even with the exercise of the greatest audacity, to give them the other side of the shield. Although he had ven-

tured before to differ from his friend, in the present instance there could only be one opinion. Evidently the peculiar rolled and polished surface of the rock before them was due to jointing and sliding. He had never seen these rocks before, and his expectations had been much raised as to the reported discovery of traces of glacial action in these Devonshire and Somerset hills and combes; for his part, he had never believed that up to the present time any unmistakeable traces of the presence of ice in these districts had been found. The Taunton Museum certainly possessed a piece of sandstone, found in Somerset, and supposed to bear glacial markings on its surface; but even supposing this were really the case, a single bit of evidence of such a doubtful character was insufficient to establish the fact that ice had once filled these valleys. And now we have these markings on the Weir rock proved on investigation to be due to causes well known to practical geologists, and not to the agency of ice; so that the former presence of glaciers in these parts still remains non-proven. These rocks belonged to the base of the Upper Devonian, and appeared to be similar to the grits at Torr Steps. Luckily for those who required ocular demonstration of the correctness of these statements, they had only to walk just round the corner into the quarry and they would see a fine section exposed.

The party then proceeded to the quarry, and Mr. Winwood pointed out, on the beds of sandstone, precisely similar markings, which had only recently been exposed by the quarryman.

Barlinch Priory.

Walking back to the ruins of Barlinch, an attempt was made to inspect the remains, now in the garden; after which,

Rev. J. G. HOWES, Rector of Exford, gave an account of the Priory.

Standing here upon the margin of the upper Exe, one cannot help remembering with some amusement the strange mistake of Collinson in his account of the parish of Brompton Regis. He says that William de Say, the possessor of the Manor of

Brompton, in the time of Henry II, founded a small priory of Black Canons "on the little river Barle, on a spot called from it Barlinch."³ Whatever may be the meaning of the name Barlinch, we may be sure that it has nothing at all to do with the name of the river Barle. The name was anciently written Berlic, Berlych, or Berliz. The word seems to divide itself naturally into *Ber* and *Lynch*; the former syllable coming from a word signifying barley-corn, which appears in our familiar *barn* and *barton*; the latter, a word which sometimes stands by itself in the place-names of West Somerset, signifying, I believe, a balk or tract of land. The name Berlych, however, had a wider application than to the meadows surrounding the priory. There is mention in the Charter, to be spoken of presently, of Berlic wood (*nemus*); of the plain below the mountain of the high wood of Berlic; and of the land of Berlicford.

In this pleasant valley, under the shadow of the high wood of Berlych, some seven hundred and odd years ago,⁴ William de Say founded his small priory of regular Canons of St. Augustine. They were not monks, properly so called, but belonged to an order which had frequent rivalries and controversies with the monks; they were Canons living under a strict rule; and the rule which they followed was that which was attributed in ancient times to the great Bishop of Hippo.⁵ The church of Berlych was dedicated to St. Nicholas.

There is in Dugdale⁶ only one charter of the Priory of Berlych. It is dated the 13th Edward III, *i.e.*, 1340. But this charter recites two older charters, both of the 40th Henry III,⁷ *i.e.*, 1256; to one of them the witness was the famous Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester. From these earlier charters it appears that the chief original benefactors to the

(3). Collinson v. iii. p. 503.

(4). Collinson, I do not know on what authority, gives the name of a Prior, Walter, in 1175.

(5). This rule is given in the early ed. of *St. Augustine* as Ep. cix.

(6). Vol. vi., pp. 385 ff.

(7). Collinson has "fourth of Hen. III;" but this must be a misprint.

New Series, Vol. IX, 1883, Part I.

Priory, next to William de Say, were his daughter Matilda; Johanna de Ferrariis or de Ferrars, and her son, who is called "Johannes de Averenges" or John de Avranges. These three persons were, I believe, successively possessors of the Manor of Brunton, *i.e.*, of King's Brompton, or as it was often called, Brunlond.

We learn from *Domesday* that the Manor of Bruneton, as it is there written, a free manor and then constituting a Hundred by itself, was held in the time of Edward the Confessor, by Gytha, wife of Earl Godwine and mother of Harold. It passed into the hands of King William, who, when *Domesday* was compiled, held it himself. From the charter it appears that Upton, or at least a considerable portion of it, was then included in this manor.⁸ It is a fair presumption that it was so originally. Upton is not mentioned in *Domesday*. It is assigned by Mr. Eyton to one of the originally royal manors; but it seems more likely that it formed part of the manor of the Countess Gytha.

This manor then was held at the end of the reign of Henry II by William de Say, and from him it passed to his daughter Matilda. What relationship existed between Johanna de Ferrars and Matilda de Say, who is said by Collinson to have married William de Buckland, I have not ascertained. There is a rescript of 1st Henry III (1216), which directs that full seisin of the manor of Brunland should be given to Robert de Ferrars;⁹ and in 1223 there is mention of Robert de Ferrars and his wife Johanna.¹⁰ Whether the Johanna of the charter were the widow or the daughter of Robert de Ferrars (it is not likely that she was a more remote relation), it appears that a Johanna de Ferrars married into the family of de Avrenges, and brought with her the manor which she transmitted to her son. He did homage on succeeding to her possessions in 1252.¹¹ But he did not enjoy them long. He died early, leaving a

(8). The Mountain of Upton is mentioned in Johanna's demesne.

(9). *Rot. Lit. Claus.* I. p. 293.

(10.) *Ib.* I. p. 569.

(11). *Rot. Fin.* II. p. 147.

widow (Amicia) and young children, and an encumbered estate. There is notice of his indebtedness to one Salomon, a Jew, of London. In 1259 the King granted the custody of his estates, during the minority of his heirs, to two of his own personal attendants, "*vallettis suis*," viz., Wm. de Renham and Emericus Bezill. He married, as his second wife, Isabel, daughter of *William Ferrers*, Earl of Derby, and relict of Gilbert Basset.¹² Soon afterwards the Besill family appear in full possession of the manor of Kingsbrompton. The Prior of Berlych had assumed manorial rights¹³; but in 1276 an agreement was entered into between Matthew de Besil and his wife Elizabeth, on the one side, and the Prior of Berlych on the other, whereby the Prior gave up to the said Matthew and Elizabeth the manor of Bromland, and Matthew and his wife gave up to the Prior the advowson of the church of Brompton Regis, reserving to themselves and their heirs the patronage and advowson of the Priory of Berlych.¹⁴ The manor was held by the Besills for a considerable time; and they are said to have had a house at Bury. But it is not my purpose to follow the descent of the manor any further.

The benefactions of the three persons whom I have mentioned are enumerated at great length in the charter. Other early benefactors (*i.e.*, before 1256) were Reginald de Mohun,¹⁵ Luke de Felkeford or Feskeford, and Galfrid de Boveney. Benefactions of lands and mills and water-courses, and of rent charges on lands and tenements, are specified in full detail. One church only is as yet mentioned, that of King's Brompton (where in *Domesday* time was a priest holding one hide *de eleemosyna*), which was given to the priory by Matilda de Say, together with the tithe of her expenses *in pane et coquinâ*, and the tithe of the skins of all wild animals. There seems to have been no church as yet at Upton, nor is any mentioned in

(12). *Rot. Fin.* II. pp. 266, 314.

(13). *Rot. Hundred* II. p. 138.

(14). "Sicut antecessores sui habuerunt," *Abrev. Placit.* 4th Edw. I.

(15.) This was most likely Reginald, Earl of Somerset, who died in 1257.

the taxation of 1292.¹⁶ The great tithes of Brompton and Upton were, I suspect, already possessed by grant from William de Say.

Between the years 1256 and 1340, the date of the charter of Edward III, numerous benefactions were made by a host of benefactors; and the influence of the Prior and Canons must have steadily increased. In some parishes they obtained by successive benefactions preponderating influence. Thus at Morebath, first an Abbess of Godstowe, Isolda,¹⁷ and her convent, gave them a tract of land; then one John Comyn added all his land in the Manor of Morebath; next Robert Burnell, then Archdeacon of Yorke,¹⁸ and afterwards Bishop of Bath and Wells, gave them the manor itself, with all its rights and appurtenances; and, lastly, Warine de Bassingbourn gave them 100 shillings a year, together with the advowson of the church of that manor. Thus the Prior and Canons became paramount at Morebath. Reginald de Mohun gave them the manor and church of Marnneleke (Marynaleigh) in Devonshire. Nearer home they obtained the church of Winsford by apparently a double donation. For the charter tells us that William de Regny, lord of Asholt, gave them one "ferling" of land in the manor of "Northwynesford," which land Walter de Northcote some time held, together with the advowson of the church of that "*vill.*" But from documents at Wells it appears that in the time of Reginald, [Fitz-Josceline] Bishop of Bath, who was elected Archbishop of Canterbury in 1191, and died the same year, Alicia Roges gave to the church of St. Andrew at Wells, and the Bishop, the church of Winsford, with all its appurtenances, to be held like their other churches and prebends; and

(16). There was at some period a chapel at Bittiscombe in Upton. In the *Taxation of Pope Nicholas* there is mention of "*Ecclesia de Bruneton cum capella.*"

(17). The name of Isolda de Derham, Abbess of Godstowe, occurs in 1262. Dugdale v. iv. p. 359.

(18). He is so described in a document relating to this gift preserved in the *Liber Albus* at Wells.

further, that before 1268, by the gift of 200 marks from Hugo de Romenall, formerly treasurer of Wells, the Prior and Canons of Berliz purchased a rent of 100 shillings a year, with half a "virgate" of land in the manor of Winsford, and the advowson of the church of that place.¹⁹ I can reconcile these statements only by supposing that there were conflicting claims which were settled by the transference of all asserted rights to the priory; Hugo de Romenall making peace by supplying to the Prior and Canons the means of compensating the authorities of Wells for the loss of the advowson. There was a chantry afterwards established for the said Hugo. Other transactions of various kinds, some having reference to the payment of pensions to the cathedral church, others to the arrangement of chantries and chantry services, took place between Berlych and Wells. The charter mentions also the acquisition of the church of Hillfarrence; and at a date subsequent to that of the charter, 1387, the church of Bradford, near Taunton, was appropriated to the priory.

This appears to have been the last instance of the appropriation of a church to the Prior and Canons of Berlych; at least I find no mention of any other church in the account given in to the Commissioners of Henry VIII. I have been able to glean but few particulars concerning the history of the priory during the last two hundred years of its existence. There are records of the appointment of certain Priors; and there are records of the suspension or deprivation of some of them. Thus Prior Thomas Thornbury is said to have been suspended from his office for dilapidations on December 16, 1461. John Norman was Prior at the time of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, in 26th Henry VIII; and John Berwick was Prior in 1537, when by Act of Parliament the priory and all its appurtenances became the property of the Crown. Some of the churches connected with the priory, notably those of King's Brompton and Winsford, had long been endowed vicarages. There is mention of a

(19). *Liber Albus* at Wells.

“Vicar of Bruneton,” by name William, in the time of Johanna de Ferrars. In 1280 certain small tithes were assigned to the Vicarage of Winsford, together with a croft, and a long cattle shed; Robert Burnell being Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Matthew de Molton Vicar of Winsford; and in 1453 there were added to the vicarage glebe six crofts and a meadow; the Vicar, however, undertaking to pay to the Prior and Canons, on the former occasion ten shillings, and on the latter twenty shillings a year. When the dissolution came the annual value of the property taken possession of by the Crown was found to be about £172; a sum equivalent, I suppose, to more than £2,000 of our money.

Mr. GREEN said they must thank Mr. Howes for his timely information. They would remember that when they visited Ford last year its preservation was attributed to the fact that it was roofed with tile. Here the case was different. From the *Land Revenue* account (bundle 1392, file 132) it is found that there were at Barlinch 13 “foder,” and 213 lbs. of lead, not quite 13 tons, all delivered to the custody of Richd. Abbyndon, Mayor of Bristol, and Anthony Payne, to be held for the King. Payne, under cover of a warrant to him for Keynsham, pretending that this lead was included, sold it and put the proceeds in his own pocket. As with other places, when thus unroofed, it would soon decay or be destroyed,

In the *Historical MSS. (3rd) Report* is mentioned an engagement of Barlinch in 1268 to pray for one H. Romney.

Mr. FERREY gave such particulars as he could of the plan, forming his remarks from other buildings of the Austin Canons. The cloisters would have been on the south side, and at the south transept there would be a narrow passage. The refectory would be on the side opposite the cloister. As the buildings had so nearly disappeared he was afraid he could not say much about them.

Rev. J. COLEMAN observed that when one of the cottages they saw was about to be built, on digging the foundation some

vaults were found paved with encaustic tiles. There were a few bones, and he thought this would be the situation of the church.

Mr. LANGRISHE suggested this may have been the crypt of the church, now so entirely gone.

There was one other visit marked on the programme, to Barston House, but the Secretary very reluctantly, and not until the last moment, found it necessary to omit it, as it necessitated a divergence from the road, for which the time was hardly enough with the now weary horses. As the train must be caught it was very undesirable to mar the comfort of so pleasant a day by a *fiasco* at the finish.

A halt was made at the cottages by the road turning to Barston, and a special messenger, with regrets and apologies, sent to the Rev. Sackville Berkley, who was known to be waiting to receive the Society, and ready to give some curious information from the registers at Morebath. This will not be lost, however, as it is printed in Part II. With ample time now, and consequently no anxiety, the road for Dulverton station was taken, very slowly from necessity.

On assembling in front of the Carnarvon Arms Hotel,

The PRESIDENT said they would think him more deficient in his work than he really was if, when England expected every man to do his duty, he neglected in the name of the Society to give their best thanks to the Dulverton Local Committee for the arrangements they had so kindly made, and especially he would name their local Secretary, the Rev. J. Coleman.

Mr. COLEMAN, acknowledging the compliment, said he hoped every Member of the Society had enjoyed the proceedings as much as he had done. He much regretted that so few of the Dulverton people were with them.

Mr. CHISHOLM-BATTEN begged, on behalf of the Society, to express their gratitude to the President, Mr. Surtees, for the manner in which he had discharged his office, and for the sympathy and geniality he had shown to all. He would say

nothing of his intellectual qualifications, for these were sufficiently well known.

Mr. SURTEES briefly replied, and proposed a vote of thanks should be accorded to Professor Boyd Dawkins and to Mr. Winwood for the hearty manner in which they had contributed to the success of the meeting.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS said it had been an exceeding pleasure, both to himself and to Mr. Winwood, to be present with them. He had, during the last twenty-five years, taken the deepest interest in Somerset antiquities. Many years ago, John Richard Green, an old Member of the Society, and himself had devised a scheme for a History of Somerset: not a documentary history, but a history of the antiquities, the geology, and the agriculture. It would have been a very great work, but no publisher would take it up. He would always, when possible, do feebly for the Society what J. R. Green would have done well. What he had accomplished in so short a life might be a lesson perhaps to those who lived so much longer.

Votes of thanks were then accorded to the contributors of papers and to the Secretary. There was now ample time for tea or other refreshment, and the 6.55 train was duly taken, this difficult day and a delightful meeting terminating without mishap.

The Local Museum.

A number of Palæolithic Flint Implements from the Drift gravel, valley of the Axe, near Axminster; Bronze Palstave Celt, found at Whitestaunton; Flint Arrow-head and Flint Scraper, found in a barrow at Northay, near Whitestaunton; a collection of remains, found on the site of a recently-discovered Roman Villa, at Whitestaunton Manor, consisting of Pottery; portions of Tessellated Pavement, Iron Slag, Galena; portion of a Quern, Flue Tiles, &c.; one piece of tile having the impression of a dog's foot; by Mr. C. I. ELTON.

A collection of Antiquities found in the Roman Camp, at Hamdon Hill; by Mr. W. W. WALTER.

Probate of Admiral Blake's Will, Receipts for Legacies, and other Deeds relating to the Blake family; Waistcoat and two Red Velvet Caps worn by the Admiral on board ship; also his Christening Robe and Cap; by Rev. H. C. RUDDOCK.

Saxton's Map of Somerset; Silver Coin of King John of Scotland, found in Exford Churchyard, 1882; and some other Coins; by Rev. J. G. HOWES.

Encaustic Tile from Wiveliscombe Church; and a curious Earthenware Watering Pot; by Mr. LUTLEY.

Drawings of the old Town Hall, and old Palace, Wiveliscombe; some pieces of old Lace and Embroidery; Indian Carvings and Feather Work; and some early printed Books; by Mrs. EDWARDS.

A large Case of Butterflies and Moths, collected in the neighbourhood of Wiveliscombe; by Mr. BRUCE.

A specimen of the English Black Rat, caught in Wiveliscombe three years since; by Dr. WOODFORDE.

Viper and Ringed Snake, of large size, killed near Wiveliscombe; by Mr. PRATT.

A Silver Cup, which formerly belonged to a Club in Wiveliscombe. The cup is named "Miss Flora;" on inverting the larger cup a smaller one is suspended between the uplifted hands of a female figure; by Mrs. R. TAYLOR.

The Library.

ADDITIONS SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAST VOLUME :

The Archæological Journal, Nos. 158, 159, 160.

Journal of the British Archæological Association.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. ix, No. 2.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Journal of the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland, Nos. 54, 55, 56.

Montgomeryshire Collections, parts xxxiii, xxxiv.

Archæologia Cantiana, vol. xv.

Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society.

Proceedings of the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, vol. iv, No. 4, 1881.

Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Magazine, No. 61.

Transactions of the Watford Natural History Society.

Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, vol. viii, Nos. 2, 3, 4.

Journal of the Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society, vol. vi.

Associated Societies' Reports and Papers, 1882.

Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, vols. xxxv, xxxvi, xxxvii.

Report of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 1881.

Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History, vol. vi, No. 1.

Contributions towards the History of Early English Porcelain, by the author, Mr. J. E. NIGHTINGALE.

Gloucestershire Notes and Queries, parts xx, xxi, xxii, by the Rev. B. H. BLACKER.

The Legacy, translated from the German by Mr. G. G. Moor; by Mrs. QUANTOCK.

The Life of Pope Pius II, and Engravings from the frescoes in the Piccolomini Library at Siena; Jefferies' "*Red Deer*;" by Mr. JNO. MARSHALL.

A Greek Lexicon, by Mr. SURTEES.

Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological Society, at Chard, 1882, large paper, by Mr. C. I. ELTON.

Manuscript Geological Field Books, formerly belonging to the late Rev. D. Williams, of Bleadon; by Mr. T. KERSLAKE.

Cave-Hunting, and *Early Man in Britain*, by the author, Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS.

The Morning Chronicle, 1815, 1820, 1821; by Mr. ALFORD.

The Taunton Courier, 1829 to 1838 (purchased).

The Registers of St. Antholin, London, 1538—1754 (Harleian Society, purchased).

Monograph of the British Aphides, vol. iv, (Ray Society, purchased).

Palæontographical Society's Publication for 1883 (purchased).

Cartularium Saxonicum, parts i to v, (purchased).

The Museum.

Document granting to Brownlow North and Josiah Easton the office of Porter or Keeper of the Gate of the Castle of Taunton, 1812; by Mr. RICHARD EASTON.

Fossils from the Crag formation; by Mr. A. MALET.

An old Brass Pistol Barrel, found in the bed of the River Tone; by Mr. E. JEBOULT.

A piece of Lead Ore and a polished section of Stalactite from Derbyshire; by Mr. SURTEES.

An ancient Spur, dug up in North Town, Taunton ; by Mr. HITCHCOCK.

Some remains of an extinct species of *Dinornis*, from the Summer Cave, Christchurch, together with Greenstone and other implements from New Zealand ; by Mr. GEO. ADAMS.

A quantity of Roman Pottery, found among the refuse of the Roman Lead-workings, at Charterhouse-on-Mendip ; by Mr. A. C. PASS.

Ancient Hour Glass Stand and some Ornamental Plaster Work from North Newton Church ; by Rev. B. K. EATON.

Decree in Chancery, relating to the Charities of Taunton, 1729 ; by Mr. WINTER.

A Parchment Document appointing William Hall, Esq., to be Surgeon at Bombay, under the East India Company, 1820 ; by Mr. CORFIELD.

A Pistol-shaped Tinder-box ; by Mr. SHEPHERD.

A Greenstone Adze from New Zealand ; by Mr. W. J. CULLEN.

Two pieces of English Earthenware, "Lakin" and "Walton," and a Drawing of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital ; by Mr. A. MAYNARD.

Conversazione Meetings.

December 14th, 1883.

"On the English before the making of England," by Mr. C. I. ELTON.

January 14th, 1884.

"On the Forces in Nature," and "The Storage of Energy," by the Rev. F. J. SMITH.

February 11th, 1884.

"On the most recent Explorations in Egypt, in their Biblical Relations," by the Rev. H. G. TOMKINS.





FIG. 11.

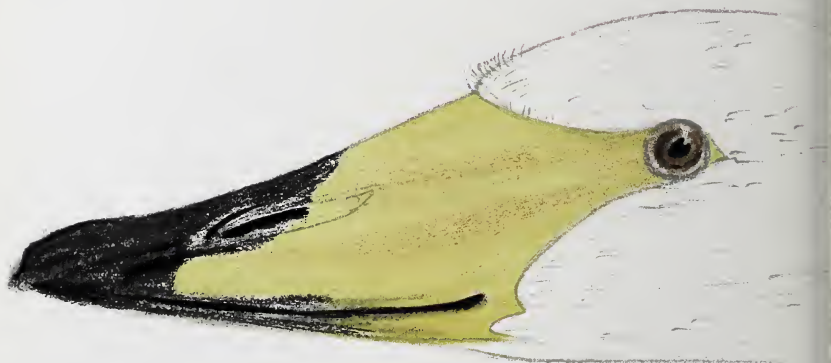


FIG. 10.

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
1883, *Part II.*

PAPERS, ETC.

On the Distinctions between various nearly-allied, or similar forms of Birds, with special reference to those known to have occurred in this County.

BY CECIL SMITH.

I AM always glad to be called upon to read an ornithological paper to this Society, as it appears to me that the Archæological subjects, perhaps the most generally interesting, rather rob the Natural History subjects of the attention due to them, not only at these Conversazione Meetings, but at the general Annual Meetings. Although the papers dealing with the subject are few, attention to it is not quite overlooked, as there is a moderately good collection of birds in our Museum, and if those deposited by Dr. Woodforde were added, the collection would be perhaps up to the average of local museums, but even with this addition there would be many large gaps. The interest of the collection would be much increased if the breast bone or *sternum* of each bird were preserved and shown. A collection of young birds in the down, special care being taken

to label correctly where they were taken, would be of very great interest, as showing what birds actually breed in the county.

In my birdy experience I have known so many mistakes made, and so many birds, that one would scarcely suppose it possible to confound, labelled with wrong names, that I have found it rather difficult to know where to draw the line in pointing out the distinctions, so as to bring what I have to say within the limits of a paper in these *Proceedings*. However, by limiting myself to birds between which mistakes may easily be made, and one or other or both of which have been found in this county, I think I may succeed in doing so. I shall take them in the order in which they come in the new edition of *Yarrell*, as far as it at present goes, and use the scientific names as given in the *List of British Birds*, lately drawn up by the Ibis Committee, and published under the auspices of the British Ornithologists' Union. Not that I am prepared to agree to every Latin name given in that list, but that I hope it may be taken for the future as an authority, and so obviate the confusion caused by the utter want of uniformity which previously existed in spite of the rules of nomenclature laid down by the British Association.

Following this arrangement then, the first birds to which I shall have to call attention are the Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaëtus*, and the White-tailed, or as it is sometimes called, Sea Eagle, *Haliaëtus albicilla*. One would think these birds sufficiently distinct for any person to be certain at a glance which he had before him, and in the fully adult plumage no doubt this is so, as no one could possibly mistake the adult *Haliaëtus albicilla*, with its white head and white tail feathers, for a Golden Eagle. The young birds, however, before they have attained their fully adult plumage are more alike, and are not unfrequently mistaken for each other, and it is often difficult to make the owner of a young White-tailed Eagle believe he has that bird, and not the Golden Eagle; no talk of infallible

tests or distinctions will probably change his opinion, especially if the bird has already been recorded in a local paper as a young Golden Eagle. At all events I know one such case, where a Somerset White-tailed Eagle has, I believe, more than once been recorded as a Golden Eagle. Without troubling ourselves, however, to go very deeply into relative length of primary quills and that sort of thing, there is one simple distinction which holds good at all ages, in both sexes, and all states of plumage, that is, that the lower part of the leg or tarsus in the Golden Eagle is feathered to the junction of the toes, whilst in the White-tailed Eagle it is bare of feathers. This distinction is easily seen, is always reliable, and is worth remembering, as in spite of records to the contrary, I do not believe the Golden Eagle has ever been found in a perfectly wild state, either in this county, or in any of the four western counties, or the Channel Islands.

Amongst the true Falcons it does not seem necessary to point out the distinguishing characters, as (except in the case of the three White Northern Falcons, which are something alike, but none of which have yet been obtained in this county) the birds are sufficiently distinct, both in size and plumage, to guard against mistakes even by the most unobservant persons. Of course I am only speaking of such Falcons as occur in the British Isles, and not of absolute foreigners.

We may, therefore, pass from the true Falcons to the Buzzards. Amongst these, as between the Common Buzzard, *Buteo vulgaris*, and the Rough-legged Buzzard, *Archibuteo lagopus*, both the English name 'rough-legged,' and the scientific name *lagopus* (λαγως and πους) of the latter, seem to point sufficiently to the distinctions, which are much the same as in the Golden and White-tailed Eagles, namely, the bare tarsus of the common Buzzard (fig. 1), and the feathered tarsus of the Rough-legged Buzzard (fig. 2). Both vary considerably in plumage, but besides the distinction above referred to, the Rough-legged Buzzard has a dark band across the breast, a

distinction which in light-coloured specimens is very conspicuous, and may serve to distinguish them when at a distance and high up on the wing. This band, though not so conspicuous, is present even in the darkest melanistic forms.

Amongst the Harriers, the Marsh Harrier, *Circus æruginosus*, seems so distinct from the other two British Harriers that I may pass it. Between the Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, and Montagu's Harrier, *Circus cineraceus*, though the adult birds may easily be distinguished, there may be, as in many other cases, some difficulty about the young ones. Mr. Howard Saunders has pointed out in his *Oiseaux du midi de l'Espagne* that any difficulty which arises as to the identification of the two birds, may be solved by observing the shapes of the first five primaries, as in the Hen Harrier the outer web of the fifth primary is notched (fig. 3), whereas in Montagu's Harrier it is plain (fig 4), or in other words, the Hen Harrier has the outer webs of the primaries, up to and including the fifth, notched ; in Montagu's Harrier this is only the case as far as the fourth, the fifth being plain. Besides this, there is a distinction in plumage, the Hen Harrier having a distinct white band on the rump, which is wanting in Montagu's Harrier ; and the long feathers on the thighs of the adult Montagu's Harrier are streaked with orange, which is not the case with the Hen Harrier ; this, however, is not so good a distinction in young birds, or even in adult females.

About the Owls I do not think I need say much, as not being much alike, they are not easily confounded with each other, except in the case of Tengmalm's Owl, *Nyctala tengmalmi*, and the Little Owl, *Athene noctua*, both of which have been added to the avifauna of this county since I published the *Birds of Somerset*. They both appear to have occurred near the Mendip Hills. These two little Owls are certainly at the first glance a good deal alike, but with a little care they may be distinguished, as Tengmalm's Owl has a distinct and nearly complete facial disk, whilst in the Little Owl there are only



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

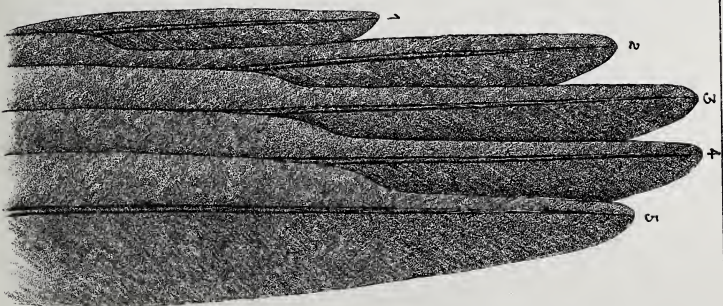


Fig. 3.

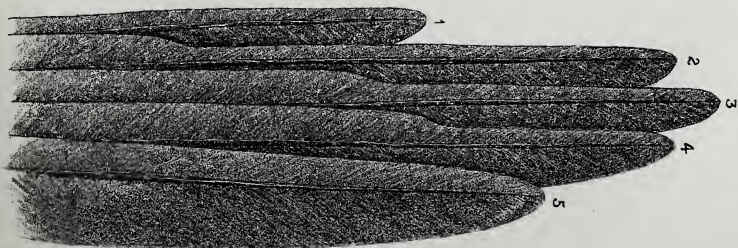
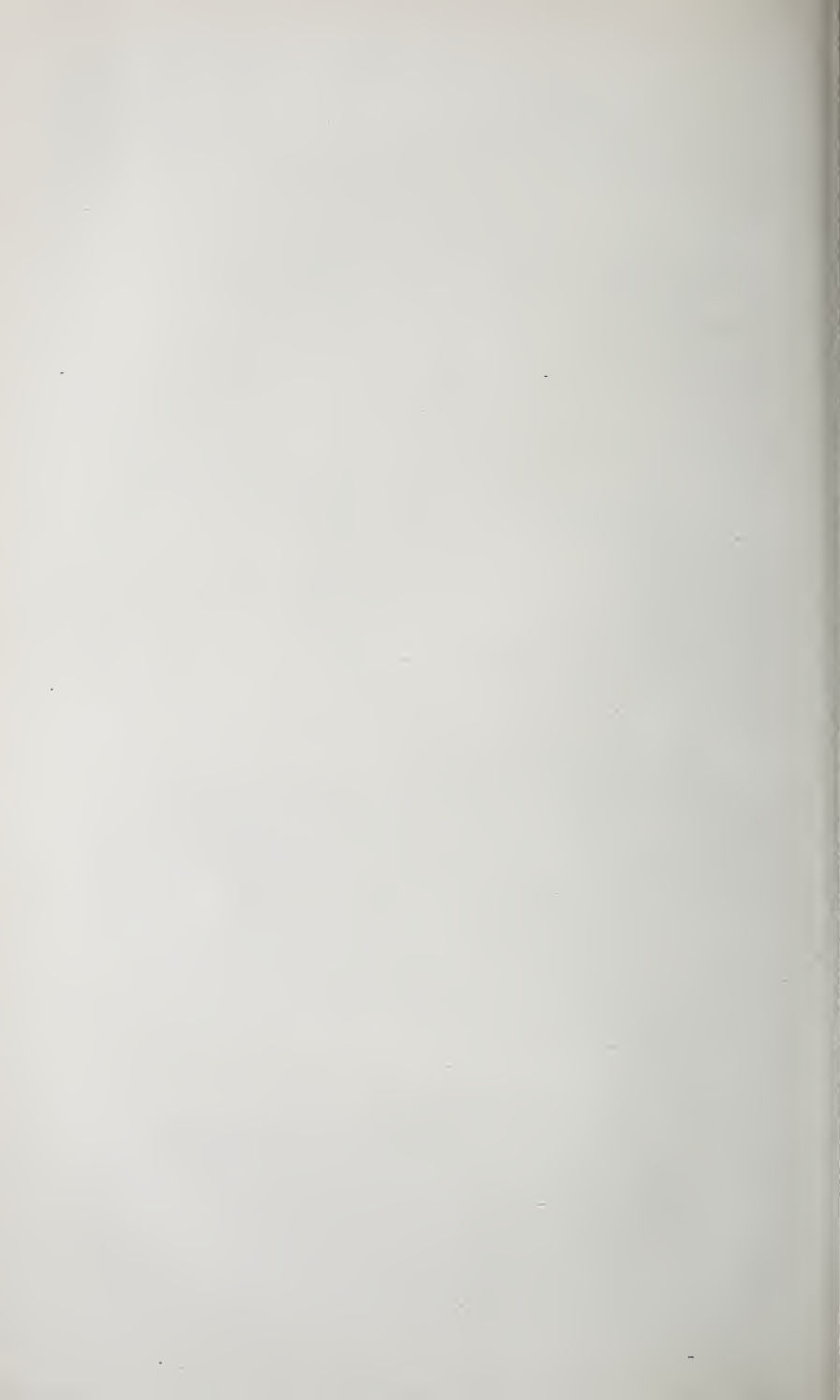


Fig. 4.



very slight indications of it ; perhaps a better test is to be found in the toes, which in Tengmalm's Owl (fig. 5) are fully feathered right down to the claws, and in the Little Owl (fig. 6) are nearly bare, being only sparingly covered with a few hair-like feathers, in this respect much resembling the same parts of our common Yellow or Barn Owl.

White's Thrush, *Turdus varius*, *Turdus whitei* of the old editions of *Yarrell*, which has now been taken twice in this county, is so unlike any other British Thrush that I need hardly point out the distinctions. As, however, mistakes have occasionally been made between this bird and our Common Missel or Mistletoe Thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*, in its first plumage, I may just point out that the spots on the feathers of the breast of the Mistletoe Thrush are round, whilst the markings on the breast of White's Thrush are semi-lunar ; White's Thrush, moreover, has fourteen tail feathers, whilst the Mistletoe Thrush has only twelve. There is another Thrush, the skin of which is frequently sold by dealers for that of White's Thrush. I mean the Australian *Turdus lunulatus*, a bird which has never reached the British Isles alive ; and of its own free will neither has White's Thrush yet been known to have occurred in Australia. The skin of the Australian bird may easily be distinguished from that of White's Thrush, as, like our Mistletoe Thrush, it only possesses twelve tail feathers.

Amongst the large group which contains all the warblers, generally known as the *Sylviidæ* or woodland birds, there will be several I shall have to refer to. The males of the two Redstarts, *Ruticilla phœnicurus* and *Ruticilla titys*, are perfectly distinct ; the females, however, are not quite so distinguishable. The female of our Common Redstart always appears to me of a paler, more rufous brown, than the female of the Black or Tithy's Redstart ; the latter being of a sooty brown, looking more as the hen of the Common Redstart would look, if she had fallen down a chimney.

The next two birds so much alike as to be liable to be mistaken for each other are the Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus streperus*, and the Marsh Warbler, *Acrocephalus palustris*. The latter has recently been added to the birds of Somerset, and, indeed, almost to the British list, from two pairs taken near Taunton, and formerly in Dr. Woodforde's collection: one pair being now in my own collection, and the other pair, with the nest and eggs, also taken near Taunton, in our Museum, where they were deposited by Dr. Woodforde. The two species are certainly very much alike; so much so, that Professor Newton declines to distinguish between them, at all events from British-killed specimens, and consequently he has not added the Marsh Warbler to his *Yarrell*: they are, however, perfectly distinct and separable species, and as such, are both included in the new *Ibis List of British Birds*, where the Marsh Warbler is said to be a rare summer visitor to the southern counties of England. These Marsh Warblers from Dr. Woodforde's collection, and one other which I also found in our Museum, are recorded in the *Zoologist* for 1875, where I stated the distinctions, as they appeared to me at that time to be, as follows: "The whole of the upper surface of the Marsh Warbler has a decided tinge of yellowish-green, most easily to be distinguished on the rump. This tinge pervades even the quills and the tail, being most discernible in those parts on the margins of the feathers; therefore, birds killed just before the autumn moult, when the margins of the feathers are much worn, seem to be the most difficult to separate. The under parts, except just in the centre, where they are white, are of a pale sulphur or primrose-yellow; the legs are pale brown. The upper surface of the Reed Warbler is brown, with a decided warm reddish tinge, and, as in the Marsh Warbler, brightest and most distinguishable on the rump; the same tone of colour pervades both the wings and the tail, being most discernible on the margins of the feathers; the under parts, except just in the centre, where they are white,

are of a buff or fawn colour, the same sort of warm reddish tinge prevailing on these parts as well as on the upper parts ; the legs are of a darkish lead colour, though in some dried up specimens the colour of the legs does not differ so very much ; but it will always be found that the birds with the greenish tinge have the legs pale, while those with the reddish hue have the legs dark." Since writing the above in the *Zoologist*, I have examined a large number of specimens, shot at various places and at different times of the year, and have always found the above distinctions hold good. There is another distinction of plumage pointed out by Mr. Harting, in Professor Newton's edition of *Yarrell*, but I confess that after examining a long series of both birds I do not consider it a good one : it is that, in the Marsh Warbler the eye streak is more clearly defined than in the Reed Warbler. Besides these distinctions of plumage, the Marsh Warbler certainly has a shorter, rather broader, and thicker bill. There is another distinction pointed out by Mr. Dresser, in the relative length of the primary quills ; in the Marsh Warbler the second or first long quill—the first in both species being very short—is longer than the fourth ; in the Reed Warbler it is equal to, or rather shorter than the fourth. Of course this is a good distinction, but like all distinctions in the comparative length of quills, it cannot be relied upon at all times. Shortly after the moult, for instance, before the quills are fully grown, it may not be true ; or if one quill had been shed and replaced by another not fully grown, it might also turn out not to be true ; so that, though a good test at times, it would be hardly true to say that every example found with the second primary longer than the fourth is a Marsh Warbler ; or, *vice versâ*, that every example found with the second primary shorter than the fourth is a Reed Warbler.

Amongst this family of aquatic Warblers there are two more very similar species, the common Sedge Warbler, *Acrocephalus phragmitis*, and the Aquatic Warbler, *Acrocephalus*

aquaticus, which has not yet been found in this county, and very seldom, indeed, in England. It is, however, so like the Sedge Warbler, that it may easily have been overlooked, and taken for the more common species; the chief distinction between the two being that the Aquatic Warbler has a decided pale, nearly white, streak from the base of the bill, through the middle of the head, dividing the dark parts almost equally: this will always serve to distinguish between the two species, as, though something of the same sort may be seen in a young Sedge Warbler, it is never so distinct or so clearly defined.

I now come to two of our very common and earliest spring migrants, the Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus rufus* (*P. collybita* of Newton's *Yarrell*), and the Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*: these two birds, though perfectly distinct, are very difficult to distinguish from each other. Puzzling as the distinctions may be, it was at one time very necessary for a Justice of the Peace to be well acquainted with them, as the Chiffchaff was protected by the old Bird Act, 35 and 36 Vict. c. 78; consequently a person was liable to a fine for killing it during the close time, whilst the Willow Wren was not so protected. Now, however, since the passing of the present Bird Act, 43 and 44 Vic. c. 35, which repeals 35 and 36 Vict. c. 78, this bit of ornithological knowledge is not so necessary, as by the present Act all wild birds are protected. Perhaps the most obvious distinction between these birds, like that between the Marsh Warbler and the Reed Warbler, is one of colour, the Willow Wren always being rather a yellower and lighter coloured bird than the Chiffchaff. This is especially the case with young birds. The legs of the Willow Wren are also rather paler than those of the Chiffchaff, which are nearly black. There is also a distinction in the comparative length of the primary quills, the Willow Wren having the second primary longer than the sixth, but not quite so long as the fifth, which is shorter than the fourth; while the Chiffchaff has the second primary about equal to the seventh, but shorter than any of the intermediate feathers; the

third, fourth, and fifth are nearly equal. Another distinction is pointed out by Professor Newton, in his *Yarrell*, though with some doubt. It seems to me, however, after examining a small series, to be as good a test as the comparative length of the quills. It is as follows: "In the Willow Wren, the third, fourth, and fifth primaries have their outer web suddenly narrowed towards the tip, while in the Chiffchaff the sixth has also the same shape, but not always the third."

The pretty little Golden-crested Wren, *Regulus cristatus*, is by no means uncommon in this neighbourhood, though I do not know that its near relation, the Fire-crested Wren, *Regulus ignicapillus*, has ever occurred in this county; it may have done so and been overlooked, as I have a specimen from the neighbouring county of Devon, and two others from Guernsey, where it occasionally occurs, especially on migration. The name Fire-crest applied here is no doubt a misnomer, and has led many people to mistake the bird through expecting to find a difference of colour in the crest. The French name for it, *Roitelet à triple bandeau*, is much more descriptive, as under the golden part of the crest there is a streak of black, and under that a streak of white over the eye, and a third streak of black through the eye; the Gold-crest, on the other hand, has only the streak of black immediately under the gold crest, below that the whole side of the face and the space surrounding the eye is a uniform dull olive-green.

These two birds finish the Warblers, and after these there is not much difficulty till we get to the Wagtails. The Tits seem to me fairly distinct, unless we try to separate the Continental forms of the Cole Tit and the Long-tailed Tit from the British, which seems to me at present unnecessary. I may mention that the Continental form of the Long-tailed Tit, *Acredula caudata*, has been recorded from this county; it differs from the common British form, *Acredula rosea*, in having a white head. The White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*, and the Pied Wagtail, *Motacilla lugubris*, present the next difficulty, both species

occurring in the county, the Pied Wagtail being the most common and the best known. The old birds, especially the males, do not when in breeding plumage present any difficulty, the Pied Wagtail having the back and most of the upper parts black, whilst in the White Wagtail the same parts are pearl-grey. After the autumn moult, however, the distinction is not so right, as it is obvious the grey margins of the feathers on the back of the Pied Wagtail partially conceal the colour beneath, but if the feathers be lifted they will be found black under the grey margins. The young birds of the year are hardly distinguishable; the young Pied Wagtail, however, always appears to me, especially if the feathers be raised, rather blacker on the back than the young White Wagtail, though I confess the difference is not very obvious. The Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla melanope*, with its uniform grey head and back, is easily identified; but the other two yellow Wagtails, namely, our common summer visitant, *Motacilla raii*, and the Grey-headed Wagtail, the real *Motacilla flava* of Linnæus, are not so easily distinguished. The name *flava* was given to our Common Yellow Wagtail by various authors, till Gould pointed out the difference between the two, and showed that the bird described by Linnæus as *Motacilla flava*, was quite distinct from our Yellow Wagtail, which has since been called by Bonaparte's name, *rai*. Between the adult birds the distinction seems clear enough, and one wonders that a mistake should ever occur, the grey head and white eye streak of the grey-headed immediately distinguishing it from the yellow, with its yellowish-green head and bright yellow eye streak. The young birds, however, are not so easy to distinguish, in fact, except the eye streak, which is always yellower in the Yellow Wagtail than in the Grey-headed, there is not much to distinguish them.

The Pipits, next in order, present perhaps more difficulties of identification than any family of birds in the British list; but I hope, as far as this county is concerned, to make these difficulties tolerably clear. The first two, the Meadow Pipit, *Anthus*

pratensis, and the Tree Pipit, *Anthus trivialis*, are both pretty numerous in all parts of Somerset; the Meadow Pipit being resident throughout the year, and the Tree Pipit being a summer migrant. They are very similar in size and general appearance, and may be always identified by the hind claw, which in the Meadow Pipit is long, quite as long as the hind toe, and tolerably straight; in the Tree Pipit it is only of moderate length, considerably curved, and not so long as the hind toe. This is a good distinction between these two birds at all ages and in all states of plumage. The Rock Pipit, *Anthus obscurus*, which is also common in our county, being resident and breeding on the coast, is rather a larger bird, and duller in plumage than either the Tree or Meadow Pipit; but the tertials are shorter in proportion to the primaries than in either of them, and the hind claw is long, if anything slightly longer, but stouter and more curved than that of the Meadow Pipit. The Rock Pipit has frequently been mistaken for another Pipit, which has occurred occasionally in the British Isles, though, as far as I know, not yet in this county, viz., the Water Pipit, *Anthus spipoletta*. In consequence of there being a Scandinavian form of the Rock Pipit with a reddish tinge on the breast, also occasionally met with in these islands, this mistake has been confirmed, as the Water Pipit has a decidedly rufous tinge on the breast, especially in the breeding season; but the two may always be distinguished, as the pale portion of the outer tail feather on each side of the Rock Pipit is a pale brown with no absolute white, whilst in the Water Pipit it is absolutely white; the second pair of tail feathers of the Water Pipit have a spot of white at the tip on the inner web, which is not the case with the Rock Pipit. Besides this, the Water Pipit also has a decided and rather broad white streak over the eye, which is quite or almost wanting in the Rock Pipit. The Tawny Pipit, *Anthus campestris*, which has occasionally straggled to the British Isles, is of a paler, more sandy colour than either the Rock or the Water Pipit; it may

also be distinguished from both of those birds by the greater quantity of white on the two outer pair of tail feathers, especially the second pair, there being a considerable portion of white on the inner web, and the outer web being white for nearly its entire length. The Rock Pipit has no white on the same feathers, though they are paler than the more central tail feathers, and the Water Pipit has only a small spot of white as before mentioned at the tip of the inner web, and none at all on the outer web. Richards' Pipit, with its longer, taller legs, seems hardly to need distinction, especially as it has not yet been recognised as occurring in this county, but there is no reason why it should not do so, as it has been procured several times in the neighbouring county of Devon. Nor need we trouble ourselves with the two remaining Pipits, which have been added on very doubtful grounds to the British list, viz., the Red-throated Pipit, *Anthus cervinus*, and the American Pipit, *Anthus ludovicianus*; neither of them have ever occurred in this county, and probably not in the British Isles, though they may perhaps have slightly added to the complications caused by the rufous-breasted form of the Rock Pipit, from which bird however they are easily distinguished.

The Sky Lark, *Alauda arvensis*, and the Crested Lark, *Alauda cristata*, which has not yet made its appearance in the county, appear sufficiently distinct, the long crest of the latter immediately distinguishing it; but the Wood Lark, *Alauda arborea*, is perhaps more easily confounded with the Sky Lark; it has, however, a light patch behind each eye and on the nape, which are wanting in the Sky Lark. The tail also is longer in the Sky Lark than the Wood Lark, and differently marked; the outer pair of tail feathers in the Sky Lark being white, with only a little brown on the inner web towards the base, the second pair having the outer web white for about two thirds of their length, the third and fourth pairs having no white; whilst the outer pair of tail feathers of the Wood Lark show a considerable portion of pale brown towards the tip, but by no means so nearly

approaching white as in the Sky Lark; the second pair has only a small portion of white, or nearly white, at the tip, the white not extending up the outer web, and the third and fourth pairs have each a small white tip.

Amongst the Finches I may perhaps just point out that our common and well-known House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, may be distinguished from his scarcer, but somewhat similarly, the Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*, by the colour of the head, which in the Tree Sparrow is a uniform bright chesnut, extending to the nape. The Serin Finch, *Serinus hortulanus*, which has once occurred in this county, at Taunton, may be distinguished from the commoner Siskin, *Chrysomitris spinus*, in the males by the black head of the Siskin, which is very different from that of the male Serin Finch with its patch of bright yellow on the forehead, the rest being dull olive-green. In size, too, the Siskin, both male and female, is always the larger bird. The females are a little more alike, though the size is nearly a sufficient distinction; the bill, however, of the Serin being rounder, and broader, and rather stouter, in fact more resembling that of the Canary than does the bill of the Siskin, which is longer and sharper, more like that of the Goldfinch.

I now pass on to the Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europæus*, which is a common summer visitant to many parts of the county; but the Red-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ruficollis*, has also been included in the British list, having been once taken in these islands.¹ It so much resembles our Common Nightjar that it might easily be overlooked, and perhaps has been so; its name, however, *ruficollis* (red-necked), points out one of its chief distinctions, which is the rufous collar at the back of the neck; besides this, both male and female have the white spots on the quills and on the outer tail feathers, which only the male has in our Common Nightjar. Its geographical range is rather too far south for it to occur frequently in the British Isles,

(1). Since reading this paper, a third Nightjar, new to the British list, has occurred in England, namely, the Egyptian Nightjar. *Caprimulgus isabellinus*. (*Zoologist* for 1883, p. 374).

but as it has done so once, and may have done so in other instances and have been overlooked, I have thought it well to point out the distinctions, as it would be more likely to make its appearance in our county than so far north as it is said to have occurred, namely, near Newcastle.

As the Alpine or White-bellied Swift, *Cypselus melba*, has occurred in this county, namely, near Axbridge, where it was shown in the temporary local museum at two of the meetings of this Society, it may be as well to point out that it may be distinguished from our Common Swift, *Cypselus apus*, by its larger size, and by the white throat, breast, and belly, there being only a band of brown across the breast.

There cannot be very much difficulty in distinguishing the Pigeons; but as the Stock Dove, *Columba ænas*, though much smaller, and by no means such good eating, may frequently be seen hanging in the markets, and in the poulterers' shops, amongst the Wood Pigeons, *Columba palumbus*, and is no doubt sold to the unwary as a Wood Pigeon, indeed, in some parts of England that is its usual name, the Wood Pigeon being called the Ring Dove, I may point out that it may always be distinguished from the Wood Pigeon by having no white whatever about it, either on the neck or the wing; the white on the wing being conspicuous on the Wood Pigeon, even in the young birds, before they leave the nest, and that on the neck very soon afterwards. The Stock Dove may be distinguished from the Rock Dove or Blue Rock, *Columba livia*, by wanting the two dark bars on the wing, which are only represented by two dark blotches; the rump in the Stock Dove is bluish-grey, whilst in the Rock Dove it is white. This is a very conspicuous distinction, and serves to identify the birds when on the wing, even at a considerable distance. Far to the eastward, in Asia, there is an intermediate variety of Pigeon which has two dark bars on the wing, as the Rock Dove, but the rump is grey, like the Stock Dove, though rather paler.

As I was passing a poulterer's shop in Taunton, on the 14th of December, 1882, I saw a quite recently-killed Red-legged Partridge, *Caccabis rufa*, and on making enquiries as to where it had been found, I was told it was one of a brace seen at Kingston, but that only this one had been shot, I think, that morning. As from all the enquiries I have made I cannot find that anyone, either at Kingston or in the neighbourhood, has imported any Redlegs, or had any eggs, I suppose we must consider these birds stragglers from some county in which they are more numerous. I was also informed that a small covey of four or five had been seen about the same time at Nynhead, but I do not know that any of them were shot. In the east of Somerset, on the Mendips, I have been informed that the Red-legged Partridge was introduced at Cheddar about sixty-six years since by Mr. Cobley, who was afterwards Vicar of the parish. The birds spread and drove the grey birds, and became so strong, that to preserve the old species it was determined to exterminate the foreigners. This was done, and the grey birds restored; but some of the Red-legs may have escaped. Mr. Charles Edwards shot some on the Cross side of the hill, these probably coming from some other source, as those who had shot over the ground for the last forty years had seen no Red-legs there before. Had it not been for these occurrences, I should not have thought it worth while to say anything about the distinctions between the Red-legged Partridges; but as they are now included in the list of British birds and have straggled into this county, it may be as well just to point out their differences. The only other Red-legged Partridge which has been included in the British list, and that without much reason, is the Barbary Partridge, *Caccabis petrosa*; the Ibis list includes it as a rare straggler to England, but it is, I should say, tolerably certain that it never has straggled to England, except as an introduced bird, and even as such, has not held its own like the Common Red-leg. It may easily be distinguished from the Common Red-leg by the different markings on the

head and neck, especially on the latter, on the side of which there is a large patch of brightish chesnut, each feather being tipped with white; this chesnut patch is quite wanting in the Red-leg, which has the throat white, surrounded by a broad band of black, beneath which the feathers are grey with broadish spots of black, giving the upper portion of the breast and sides of the neck a rather spotted and streaked appearance. In the Alpine Red-leg, *Caccabis saxatilis*, these black spots and streaks are entirely wanting. There is another Red-legged Partridge, *Caccabis chukar*, which is much like *Caccabis saxatilis*, but as neither of them have occurred in the British Isles, it is enough to say they may be distinguished from each other, and from the Common Red-leg, by the distribution of black at the base of the bill.

I may pass on now to the large group generally known as the wading birds, and of these the Plovers may first attract attention. Most of them are sufficiently distinct, but some of them require a few words to point out their distinguishing characteristics. Amongst the larger varieties, the Golden Plover, *Charadrius pluvialis*, and the Grey Plover, *Squatarola helvetica*, are occasionally mistaken for each other. In full adult plumage, either in summer or winter, the Golden Plover is sufficiently distinguished by the bright yellow markings on the back and wing coverts, but is not quite so easily distinguished before attaining fully adult plumage, as the young Grey Plover in its first autumn has sufficient yellow markings in the plumage of the upper surface to cause it to be mistaken; and in this state of plumage it may occasionally be seen hanging in the poulterers' shops, doing duty for a Golden Plover, to which as a bird for the table it is very inferior, generally being rather fishy and muddy. It may always be easily distinguished, however, by the axillary plume, or long feathers under the wing, which in the Golden Plover are white, and in the Grey Plover black; this is a good distinction at all ages after the down and in all states of plumage. Another equally good distinction is

that the Grey Plover has a hind toe, small and not very fully developed, but still a perfectly distinct hind toe, which is altogether wanting in the Golden Plover. The Ibis list above referred to has added another to the British list, the Eastern Golden Plover, *Charadrius fulvus*, one having been found in Leadenhall Market, said to have been received from Norfolk. Though rather smaller, this bird is very like our own Golden Plover, but may be distinguished, should it occur in this county, by the axillary plume, which is a smoky-grey with a small white tip to each feather. There is an American variety of Golden Plover, called *Charadrius virginianus*, which also has a smoky grey axillary plume, but without the white spots at the tips of the feathers, thus hardly to be distinguished, if indeed it is distinct, from *Charadrius fulvus*. Amongst the smaller Plovers that appear in England, the Ring Dotterel, *Ægialitis hiaticula*, is by far the most common, and perhaps the only one met with on our Somerset coast. The Lesser Ring Dotterel, *Ægialitis curonica*, though smaller, is something like it; but as both birds vary a little in size it is not always easy to distinguish them by this test alone. They may always be distinguished, however, by the primary quills, as in the Little Ring Dotterel the shaft of the first primary alone is white, whilst the Ring Dotterel has the shafts of all the primaries white. There is a difference also in the markings of the tail feathers, especially on the outer tail feather on each side, which is entirely white in the Ring Dotterel, but in the Lesser Ring Dotterel has a patch of light brown on the inner web. The Kentish Plover, though intermediate in size and something like the others, may, when alive, be easily distinguished even at some distance by its black legs. The band of black across the breast also is broken, not being a complete band, but only two large dark blotches on each side, with a considerable space between them; the top and back of the head are also different, being brightish chesnut in the adult Kentish Plover, but this is not so clearly a distinguishing mark in the young birds.

Neither the Kentish Plover nor the Little Ring Dotterel has, as far as I know, ever been recorded as occurring in this county.

The Ardeidæ or Herons being sufficiently distinct, and not likely to be mistaken for each other, but little need be said of this group. The only two which I shall notice are the Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*, and the American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*, which are occasionally mistaken for each other, but the primary quills will again serve to distinguish them, as in the American Bittern these are of a uniform dark chocolate-brown, and in the Common Bittern they are much marked and varied with dark chocolate-brown and pale yellowish-brown; this test may be relied on at all ages (fig. 7). The Bittern still occurs not unfrequently, especially as a winter visitant, in this county, though drainage of the swamps, in which it delights, the greediness of salmon fishers for its feathers for making artificial flies, and the general desire with a good many people to shoot anything at all unusual which occurs, are yearly rendering it much less common than it used to be. The American Bittern has not yet occurred in this county, though it has been met with in Dorset, in Pembrokeshire, and in Guernsey.

Amongst the large family generally known as the *Scolopacidæ*, which includes the Sandpipers, Godwits, Curlews, Snipes, and others, many little difficulties occur, partly in consequence of the various changes of plumage which take place in so many of the birds, in consequence of age, sex, or time of year. For instance, though no one would mistake an adult Ruff (the male), in his full breeding plumage, with his ruff fully grown; a Reeve (the female), or a young bird of the year, shot in its first autumn plumage, has often been mistaken, and even recorded, for a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, or a Bartram's Sandpiper. The Ruff, *Machetes pugnax*, however, may easily be distinguished from either of these birds, even in the plumage, in which to the superficial observer it shows the greatest similarity. From

Bartram's Sandpiper, *Actiturus longicauda*, it may be distinguished by its shorter and squarer tail, the outer tail feathers being much more equal to the central ones, not so graduated as in Bartram's Sandpiper, which has rather a wedge-shaped tail; the upper tail coverts and feathers on the rump are rather broadly edged with pale-brown, whereas in Bartram's Sandpiper they are a uniform dark-brown, nearly black, reflecting purple in some lights; the primary quills are of a uniform darkish-brown, without bars, whilst in Bartram's Sandpiper they are very distinctly barred with black and white on the inner web; the axillary plume in the Ruff is white, in Bartram's Sandpiper distinctly barred black and white. The neck and breast of the young Ruff are a nearly uniform buff, the under parts of the feathers only being of a more dusky colour, whilst the feathers on the neck of Bartram's Sandpiper have a central streak of dark-brown, and each feather on the breast has an inverted V-shaped mark on it; the bill of the Ruff is rather longer, especially in proportion, but not so broad. From the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites rufescens*, the Ruff,—I mean the young Ruff, in its first autumn, for the old birds are sufficiently distinct,—may be distinguished by its larger size and its longer bill, but perhaps the most easily seen distinction is in the under-wing coverts and in the primary quills; in the Ruff the larger under-wing coverts are white, in the Buff-breasted Sandpiper they have the larger portion at the base of the feather marbled black and white, with a black band on each feather near the tip, the tip itself being white; the inner webs of the primary quills, which in the Ruff are a uniform pale-grey, in the Buff-breasted Sandpiper are very prettily marked and marbled with black and white; the legs also are a clay-yellow. Bartram's Sandpiper and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper may be distinguished by the much larger size of the first named, the uniform dark feathers of the rump and upper tail coverts, the long tail, and the barred axillary plume which in the Buff-breasted is white; the markings on the breast are

also perfectly distinct, the Buff-breasted having the breast pale-buff, each feather being slightly tipped with white. I have been rather particular in mentioning the distinctions between these three birds, as they are not unfrequently confounded with each other. The Ruff occurs not uncommonly in Somerset in autumn, and there is in Dr. Woodforde's collection, now deposited in our Museum, a Bartram's Sandpiper said to have been obtained in the county, and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, not actually killed in it, but as near to it as Lundy Island, and afterwards given by Mr. Heaven, in whose collection it was for a long time, to Dr. Woodforde. Had these two birds been set up flying, or with their wings raised in the position Sandpipers assume when first touching the ground, many of the distinctions above-mentioned would have been visible. Bird-stuffers seem to have a natural liking for setting up birds in a way to conceal rather than show their distinctive characteristics.

The Green Sandpiper, *Helodromas ochropus*, and the Wood Sandpiper, *Totanus glareola*, occasionally get mixed up, and like those just referred to, if they are readily to be distinguished as set up birds in a case, they should have their wings raised, one of the chief distinctions being in the axillary plume. In the Green Sandpiper this plume is black, with small regular white bars across each feather, from the shaft to the outside edge of the feather; in the Wood Sandpiper it is white, irregularly marked here and there with black; the markings on the tail of the Green Sandpiper are bolder and more distinct than those on the tail of the Wood Sandpiper; the Green Sandpiper also has more white on the rump; this is very conspicuous in flight, especially when the bird first rises. There is an American bird, the Solitary Sandpiper, *Totanus solitarius*, which has been recorded as having, once at least, visited the British Isles; it is something like, and may easily be mistaken for, the Wood Sandpiper, but may always be distinguished by its having the rump and upper tail coverts dark, without any white as in the Wood and Green Sandpipers.

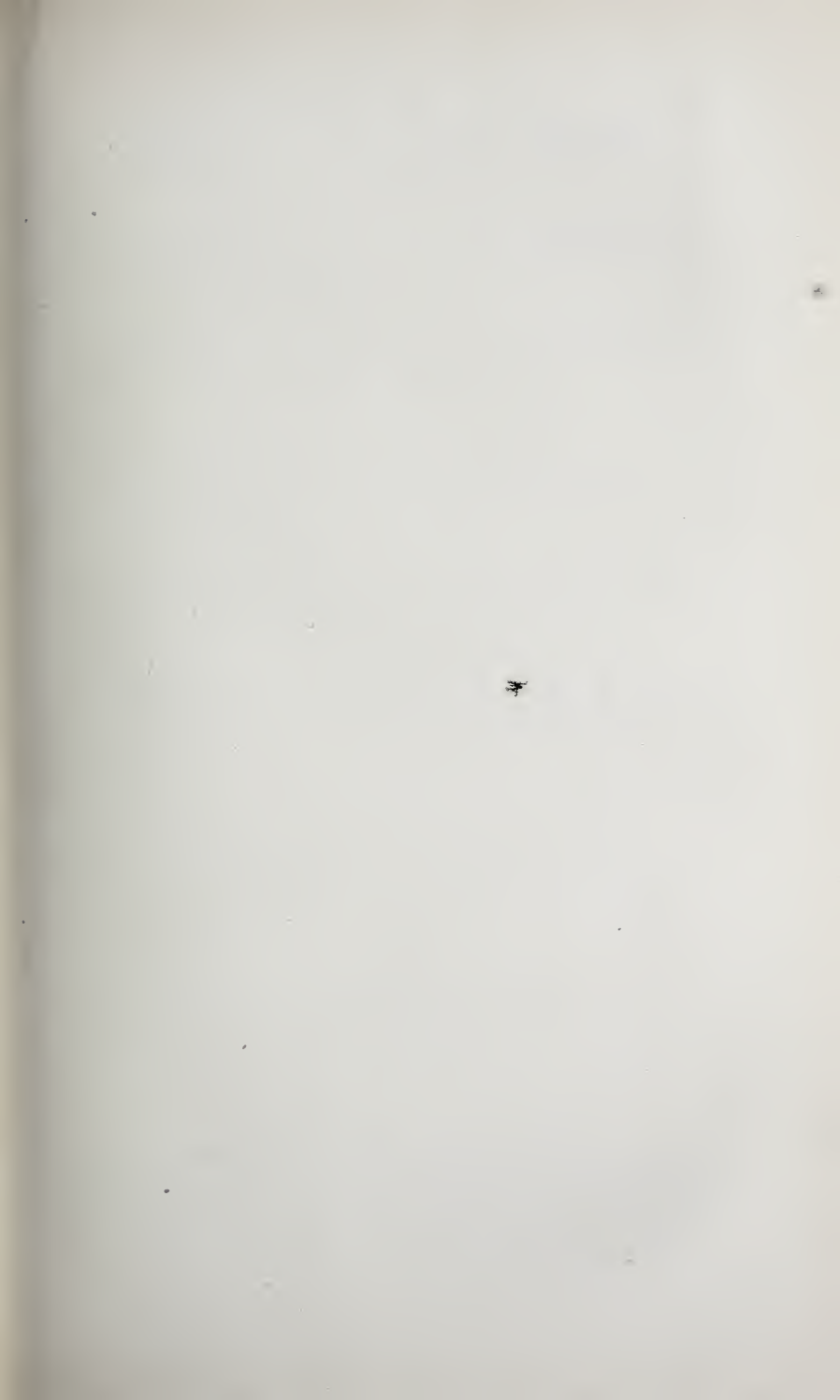




Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

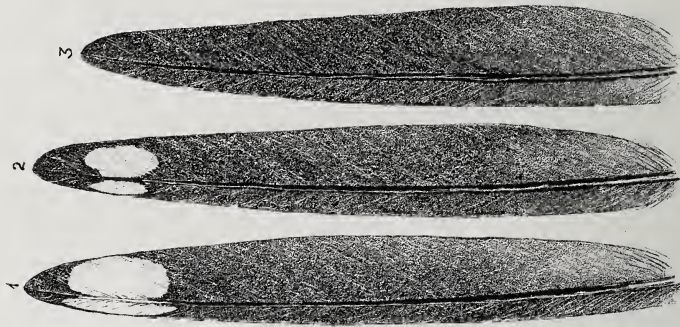


Fig. 12.

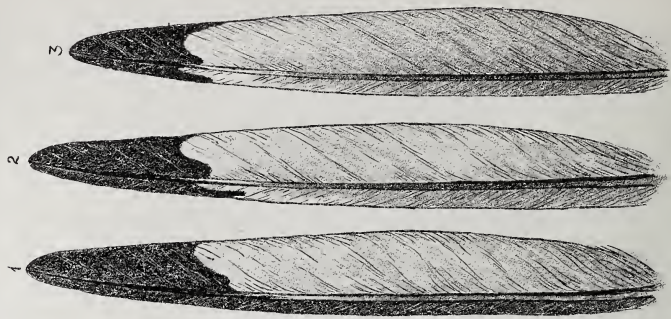


Fig. 13.

The Redshank, *Totanus calidris*, and the Spotted Redshank, *Totanus fuscus*, are in the winter and autumn something alike, but in the summer, when the Spotted Redshank gets a sooty-black plumage, there can be no mistake. The Spotted Redshank has a longer and more slender bill, as well as longer legs. The Redshank has most of the secondary quills white, whilst those of the Spotted Redshank are distinctly barred; the seventh, eighth, and ninth, primaries of the Redshank are nearly white, being only slightly marked with irregular pale dusky marks, whilst the same feathers of the Spotted Redshank are nearly of the same colour as the first primaries, some of the inner ones being, however, barred on the outer web. Both of these birds occasionally occur in this county, though the Spotted Redshank is by far the rarer of the two.

Between the two Godwits, the Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica*, and the Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa ægocephala*, both of which occasionally occur in this county, especially in autumn, the English names seem sufficiently to point out the distinctions; besides this, the Black-tailed is rather the larger bird, having both the bill and legs longer.

The genus, *Scolopax*, which in our early days we used to consider applicable to all Snipes, is now restricted to the Woodcocks, and *Gallinago* taken as the generic name for the Snipes. The old specific name, *Gallinago*, of Linnæus, had to give place to *Cælestis*, of Frenzel (1801). *Cælestis* seems to have been applied to the Snipe by some of the older authors, who considered the drumming to be like the voice of a goat, and therefore they called the bird *Capella cælestis*,¹—I suppose, as meaning a sort of heavenly or ærial goat. Amongst the true Snipes, it may be of interest to point out how nearly our Common Snipe, *Gallinago cælestis*, resembles its American cousin, *Gallinago wilsoni*, which is said to have occurred once in the British Isles. The resemblance is very close, but the Common Snipe has fourteen feathers in the tail, whilst *Gallinago*

(1). See *Ibis List of British Birds*, p. 166.

wilsoni has sixteen, like the Great or Solitary Snipe, *Gallinago major*; the number, however, probably varies in all three as the Great Snipe has been known to have as many as eighteen. The only other difference I can see is in the axillary plumes, the feathers of that part in *Gallinago wilsoni* being clearly, distinctly, and very regularly barred with black and white across both webs, nearly in equal proportion (fig. 8); the same feathers in our Snipe being white with very small black bars, showing much more white than black (fig. 9). Sabine's Snipe we need not trouble about, it being now regarded as only a melanistic form of the Common Snipe, and I suppose every one knows the Jack Snipe, *Limnocryptes*¹ *gallinula* from the Common Snipe.

The Purre or Dunlin, *Tringa alpina*, of which we see such immense flocks during the autumn and winter on the mud flats throughout the whole length of our coast, a few remaining all the summer, has a representative in America which occasionally visits these islands. I do not know that it has been obtained actually in this county, though two I have in my collection were shot near Barnstaple: I mean Bonaparte's Sandpiper, *Tringa fuscicollis*, which, except for the white rump, retained in all plumages, might easily be mistaken for the Purre. It never has the black breast in summer, as the Purre has, and consequently never shows any traces of it in the autumn plumage, as the Purre does up to the time of assuming the full winter plumage. This would be a good test from the spring, when the black breast first shows itself in the Purre, till the late autumn, when it finally disappears. Bonaparte's Sandpiper must not, on account of its white rump, be confounded with the Curlew Sandpiper, or, as it is sometimes called, the Pigmy Curlew, *Tringa subarquata*, which occasion-

(1). This generic name, though given by the authors of the Ibis list on account of certain differences of formation, especially as to the *sternum* or breast bone, has not been adopted by Mr. Howard Saunders in the fourth edition of *Yarrell*, who does not separate this from the other Snipes, and consequently continues the name *Gallinago* as the generic name.

ally visits our coast in the autumn. The Pigmy Curlew is a larger bird, rather larger than a Purre, from which it may be distinguished by the white rump, and is considerably higher on the legs than either the Purre or Bonaparte's Sandpiper, and has a more curved bill, like a Curlew's, from which it takes both its English and Latin names; *subarquata* being translated in the Ibis list, a little like a Curlew *Arquata*. These differences would at all times distinguish it from either the Purre or Bonaparte's Sandpiper, as the white rump would distinguish it from the Pectoral Sandpiper, *Tringa maculata*, another American visitant to our shores, more frequent than Bonaparte's Sandpiper. The Pectoral Sandpiper may be distinguished from the Purre by its larger size, by its never having the black breast in summer, and by its not assuming the greyish plumage of the Purre in winter; and at all times the rump and upper tail coverts are darker than the Purre's,—being a black, with purple reflections, and never edged with rufous, as are those of the Purre in summer. The Purre or Dunlin is so very unlike either the Common Snipe or the Jack Snipe, that I do not think it the least necessary to point out any distinctions. I should not have mentioned them together, except that I have known Purres sold to the unwary as Snipes: in fact, I was once led by a relation, with whom I was staying at Teignmouth, to expect snipes for dinner, and was much disgusted to find nothing but a few Purres, which my relative and her cook had taken for Snipes,—or, at least, Jack Snipes,—because of the long bill. I have also known a bird, still less like a Snipe, the Purple Sandpiper, *Tringa striata*, cooked for a Snipe, as I once gave some that I shot at Exmouth to a friend who was shooting with me; and when I asked him, the next day, if he had succeeded in making good skins of them, he replied, “No. I have eaten part of them for breakfast; as my sister, seeing them in the larder—where I had put them, out of the way of the cat,—had them cooked—supposing every thing with a long bill to be a Snipe.”

Those two pretty little Sandpipers—the Little Stint, *Tringa minuta*, and the Temminck's Stint, *Tringa Temmincki*, both of which have occurred in this county, may easily be mistaken for each other, but may at all times be distinguished by the outer tail feathers,—the light parts of these being white in Temminck's Stint, and pale-brown in the Little Stint; also, the shafts of the primary quills in the Little Stint are white, except a very small portion at the base and the tip; but in Temminck's Stint the shaft of the first primary only is white, those of all the others being brown,—that of the second, however, being very pale, approaching white just in the centre. The Little Stint also has the legs darker than in Temminck's Stint. There is another, rather a smaller bird than either our Little Stint or Temminck's, the American Stint, *Tringa minutilla*, which has not yet been recorded as occurring in this county, though it is a rare occasional straggler to the British Isles, and has once certainly been taken in the neighbouring county of Devon. It differs from Temminck's Stint, in having the outer tail feathers pale-brown, and not white; in this respect resembling the Little Stint, but differing from that bird in having the shaft of the outer primary only white, that of the second being nearly uniform brown throughout its length, and not so pale in the centre, as in Temminck's Stint. The legs also are paler than those either of Temminck's or the Little Stint. Other slight differences in the plumage of these three birds have been pointed out by Mr. Dresser, but as all of them appear more or less variable at different times of the year, and in the different stages of plumage, I have not thought it necessary to recapitulate them: the distinctions above mentioned are constant, and appear sufficient to distinguish the three birds at any time. I need not say more about the Sandpipers, except to point out that the Sanderling, *Calidris arenaria*, which visits our coast occasionally from autumn to spring, though it is not so common as on both the coasts of Devon, may be distinguished from the Grey Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicaria*, for which, in winter

plumage, I have known it mistaken, by its having no lobes to the feet; and from all the other small Sandpipers by wanting a hind toe, in which it resembles many of the Plovers, and was on this account at one time classed amongst those birds.

Amongst the Rails there are only two entitled to a place in the British list, in any way really troublesome. They are the Little Crake, *Porzana parva*, and Baillon's Crake, *Porzana bailloni*, which are certainly something alike. Baillon's Crake, however, is always rather the smaller bird, and it may also be distinguished by the remarkable irregular white markings on its back and wing coverts, which are nearly wanting on the back of the Little Crake, and quite so on the wing coverts. The under tail coverts, thighs, flanks, and belly of the Baillon's Crake have the feathers more distinctly barred with white than those of the same parts of the Little Crake, where the white bars, especially in the adult, seem almost entirely confined to the under tail coverts. The long feathers of the axillary plume of Baillon's Crake are narrowly, but distinctly, barred with white; whilst those of the Little Crake are a uniform slate-colour. Mr. Dresser points out, also, that the outer web of the first primary of Baillon's Crake is marked with buffy-white; but this seems to me variable, as in one specimen I have, these buffy-white marks are scarcely visible, while in another nearly the whole outer web is buffy-white; in the Little Crake the outer web of the first primary is of the same colour as the rest of the feather. Of these little Crakes, Baillon's Crake has occurred several times in this county, and on more than one occasion in the neighbourhood of Taunton. The Spotted Crake, *Porzana maruetta*, is a much larger bird, and sufficiently distinct in plumage not to require any remarks; it is a much more common bird than either of the others.

We now come to the Swimmers. Amongst these the four Grey Wild Geese are no doubt something alike; in some cases the soft parts, the bill and the legs, presenting nearly the only distinction. The Grey Lag Goose, *Anser cinereus*, differs in

plumage, as well as in the colour of the soft parts, having the wing coverts on the shoulders pale bluish-grey ; the bill is flesh-colour, the nail white. The Orange-legged Bean Goose, *Anser segetum*, has none of the bluish-grey on the shoulder of the wing, that part being more like the back and rest of the wing coverts ; the bill differs considerably from that of the Grey Lag Goose, having the middle portion of the upper mandible orange, base and edges black, and nail black ; the legs and feet are orange, in accordance with its name. The Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, has the upper mandible of the bill pink in the centre, base and edges black, nail black, legs and feet pink. This colour, however, does not appear to me to be constant, as some I have kept in a state of semi-domestication and bred from for some years, have, in some instances, had the light parts of the bill and the legs and feet orange, as bright and decided an orange as the orange-legged species ; in this state they are very like, and if shot, would no doubt be recorded for Orange-legged Bean Geese. They are slightly different in plumage, however, having the white markings on the tail broader, and the shoulder of the wing is more of a blue-grey, in this respect resembling the Grey Lag Goose, though the blue is darker than in that bird. The White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*, which perhaps occurs more frequently than either of the others, differs considerably in plumage, having a great deal of irregular black marking on the breast ; it also has a conspicuous white band above the bill on the forehead, hence the name white-fronted ; the legs and the bill have an orange tinge, and the nail is white.

Between the two Wild Swans, the Wild Swan or Whooper, *Cygnus musicus*, and Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus bewickii*, there is a great difference in size, Bewick's Swan being a much smaller bird than the Whooper. Both are frequently found in Somerset as winter visitants. Besides their great difference in size, they may easily be distinguished, as in the Whooper the yellow at the base of the bill extends as far as the nostrils, reaching, at

the edge of the upper mandible, rather further (fig. 10); whereas in Bewick's Swan, the yellow occupies only a small space at the base of the bill, not extending to the nostril or to the edge of the upper mandible (fig. 11). The head of the Bewick's Swan, from which the figure was drawn, is that of a bird killed, it was said, by foxes, at Cothelstone pond, in January, 1870. The Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*, which is the ordinary tame Swan of our ponds and rivers, has probably never occurred in the British Isles in a really wild state, being a bird of a rather more eastern range; it may easily be distinguished from the Whooper or Bewick's Swan, by having a knob on the forehead, that and the base of the bill being black, and the space between the black at the base and the nail at the tip of the bill orange-red; this being black in the other two, thus rather reversing the order of things. There is another Swan which is said to have occurred occasionally in England, especially on the east coast, but, as far as I know, never having yet wandered into this county. The Polish Swan, *Cygnus immutabilis*, is much like the tame Swan; the bill, however, is a redder orange, and the knob on the forehead much smaller; the cygnets, too, in their first feathers are white, like the adults, not grey as in the common tame Swan; hence its name, *immutabilis*—unchanging. The colour of the legs also is grey, instead of black.

Of the ducks there is not much to be said, they are too unlike to cause any serious difficulty, even when the males are disguised in that peculiar plumage which they put on immediately after the breeding season, and which they wear till after the autumn moult. I may, however, mention that the American Wigeon, *Mareca americana*, occasionally met with, one, at least as near this county as North Devon, has been accepted by the editors of the Ibis list as having a valid claim to be considered an accidental straggler to these Islands; as there is no known instance of its importation into Europe, this one could not have escaped from captivity. This bird differs from our Common Wigeon, *Mareca penelope*, about the head. In

the American Wigeon, this is pale-grey speckled with black in both male and female, with a broad patch of green round and behind the eye ; the head of the male of our Common Wigeon is red with a long white, or rather perhaps pale-buff, patch on the top of the head ; in the summer, after the breeding season, the head is red, much speckled with very dark-green and black, the white patch then disappearing ; the head of the female is at all times a dull darkish-brown, very unlike that of the American Wigeon. The only other ducks which I need mention are the Common Scoter, *Oidemia nigra*, and the Velvet Scoter, *Oidemia fusca*, both of which occur on our coast. The Common Scoter being the most frequent, but never so numerous as on the South Devon coast. These may be immediately distinguished by the white speculum on the wing of both male and female Velvet Scoter ; the male Common Scoter being entirely black, without any white, and the female dark sooty-brown, also without white. The Velvet Scoter, moreover, is rather the larger bird.

From the ducks, a jump may be made to the Gulls, Terns, and Skuas. Amongst these there is sometimes a considerable difficulty as to identity, especially in the young birds. Of the Terns, then, perhaps the two which get most easily mistaken, are the Common Tern, *Sterna fluviatilis*, and the Arctic Tern, *Sterna macrura* ; both occur not unfrequently in this county on migration in spring and autumn, sometimes in considerable numbers, never however remaining to breed. The Arctic Tern may always be distinguished from the Common Tern by the shortness of the tarsus ; this is a sure test at all ages. The young birds in their first autumn may also be distinguished by the first three primary quills, having less of dark-grey and more white on the inner web than those of the Common Tern ; the bill also, in both young and adult, has more red than that of the Common Tern, and in the adult bird, especially in full breeding plumage, the outer tail feathers on each side are longer in proportion to the wing than in the Common Tern, and the breast

darker-grey, more like the back. The Arctic Tern must not, however, on this account be confounded with the Whiskered Tern, *Hydrochelidon hybrida*, which has the breast very dark, even darker than the back, but always to be distinguished by having the webs between the toes very much cut back, as in the Black Tern, *Hydrochelidon nigra*. The Common Tern occasionally, especially in the breeding season, having a very roseate hue on the breast, has often on this account been mistaken for Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougalli*. The Roseate Tern has, however, a slenderer and more elegant figure, and a more deeply-forked tail, the two outer tail feathers being much longer than the others; these two long outer tail feathers are white on both the inner and the outer webs, whereas in the same feathers of the Common Tern, the outer web is dark-grey. The white on the inner web of the primary quills of the Roseate Tern extends to the tip, and completely round it, as in the larger Sandwich Tern, *Sterna cantiaca*; in the Common Tern it does not reach to the tip. The only other difficulty with the Terns which need be noticed is that between the Black Tern, *Hydrochelidon nigra*, and the Silver-winged Black Tern, *Hydrochelidon leucoptera*. The fully adult birds, either in summer or winter plumage, can hardly be mistaken, as not only the white on the shoulder of the wing, from which the latter takes both its English and Latin names, distinguishes it, but a much better and unmistakable distinction is its absolutely white tail and tail coverts. The young birds are not so easily to be distinguished. The young, however, of the Silver-winged Black Tern always have a band of white above the upper tail coverts, this part being grey in the young Black Tern. I have seen specimens of the young Black Tern in which this part is very pale, and I have one shot by myself near Instow, in North Devon, in which it is very pale indeed, but not absolutely white. The Black Tern occurs in various parts of this county, both inland along the rivers, and on the coast, in both spring and autumn, sometimes in considerable numbers; but I do not know that the

Silver-winged Black Tern has ever occurred. There is a rather doubtful specimen in the Museum at Exeter, which was killed on the Exe, probably correctly labelled as a Silver-winged Black Tern; but it is difficult to be sure of this, as the bird is so set up that the distinguishing white band above the tail coverts cannot be seen.

From the free and easy way in which people talk about Sea Gulls, one might imagine there was only one species, instead of forty-nine, as noted by Mr. Howard Saunders in his paper on the *Larinæ* or Gulls, published in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society*. There is here not much difficulty, especially with the larger ones occurring in this county, either as occasional stragglers, or more or less regular and numerous visitants. The two large Northern Gulls, the Glaucous Gull, *Larus Glaucus*, and the Iceland Gull, *Larus leucopterus*, may immediately be distinguished from the other large Gulls visiting this county,—such as the Greater Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*, the Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*, and the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*, by their white primary quills; and from each other they may be distinguished by size alone, the larger of the first two, the Glaucous Gull, answering very much in size to the Greater Black-back; and the smaller, the Iceland Gull, being about the same size as the Lesser Black-back, or the Herring Gull. Of these five Gulls, the Glaucous and the Iceland can only be considered rare stragglers to this county, those that come being generally young birds in their first or second autumn. The Great Black-back Gull is also scarce on our coast, young birds being of more frequent occurrence than adults; but as a very few pairs breed at Lundy Island (it is said formerly to have bred at the Steep Holme), both young and adults may be seen occasionally at almost all times of the year, almost always singly, never in flocks like the other Gulls. The Lesser Black-backed Gull is considerably more common than either of the three just mentioned, occasionally making its appearance inland, when crossing from the English

to the Bristol Channel ; it does not, however, breed nearer than Lundy Island, where it is found breeding in considerable numbers. The Herring Gull is very common throughout the whole length of the coast, especially in autumn and winter, and immature birds may be seen at all times of the year, though as far as I can ascertain, it does not breed on any part of our coast. The adult Herring Gull may always be distinguished from the adult Lesser Black-backed Gull by the colour of the mantle, which is pale-grey in the Herring Gull, and dark slate-grey in the Lesser Black-back ; but the young birds are extremely difficult to distinguish.

In the *Birds of Guernsey*, I have pointed out the following distinctions, which seem to me pretty reliable. As far as the primary quills go, I do not see much difference ; the shafts, perhaps, of the quills of the Lesser Black-back are darker than those of the Herring Gull. The difference, if anything, is very slight ; but the head and neck, and the centres of the feathers of the back of the Lesser Black-back are darker, more of a smoky-brown, than those of the Herring Gull. This difference of colour is even more apparent on the under surface. The shoulders of the wing and the under wing coverts of the Lesser Black-back are much darker—nearly dull sooty-black, and much less margined and marked with pale whity-brown, than those of the Herring Gull. The dark bands on the end of the tail feathers of the Lesser Black-back are broader and darker than in the Herring Gull ; this seems especially apparent in the two outer tail feathers. Of course, as soon as the darker feathers of the mantle begin to make their appearance, there can be no longer any possibility of doubt. A cross-bred Gull, between the Herring Gull and the Lesser Black-back, which was bred on my pond, has the mantle very pale—intermediate between the pale-grey of the Herring Gull and the dark slate-grey of the lesser Black-back. It was able to fly, and went backward and forward to the sea ; but, unfortunately, in one of its trips some one shot it, a direct

infringement of the bird Act, and one day last May it came into my pond wounded, and shortly afterwards died there. I was very sorry for this; being most anxious to see what colour the legs and feet would have been: at first they were apparently flesh-colour, like those of the Herring Gull, but as the bird grew older they were becoming more yellow, and like those of the Lesser Black-back. Had the shot been fatal, and the successful party then have taken the bird to a stuffer, we should probably have seen a notice in some paper of the occurrence of the more eastern *Larus affinis* of Reinhardt; which is something like a cross-bred between the Herring and the Lesser Black-back. The Common Gull, *Larus canus*, which is very common on our coast throughout the autumn and winter, may be distinguished from the Herring Gull by its smaller size; by the colour of the legs—which are never flesh-colour, as in the Herring Gull, but always have a bluish-grey tinge, and are certainly never lemon-yellow, as in the plate in the *Birds of Europe*; and by the pattern of the primary quills, especially in the adult and nearly adult birds. Though so numerous on our coast in autumn and winter, the Common Gull does not breed there, nor on the coast of Devon and Cornwall, as stated by Mr. Dresser in his *Birds of Europe*, on the authority of Mr. A. G. More, who quotes Mr. Rodd as an authority for Cornwall; the Rev. M. A. Matthew for Devon; and Mr. W. D. Crotch for Somerset. But Mr. Rodd makes no such statement in his *Birds of Cornwall*. Mr. Matthew's statement, I believe, was founded on the mistaken identity of an egg, and I have never been able to find the slightest foundation for the statement said to have been made by Mr. Crotch as to this county. I believe I am perfectly safe in stating that the Common Gull does not breed in either of the counties above mentioned, or in the Channel Islands. Like the Common Gull the Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*, is very numerous on our coast in winter, not, however, remaining to breed there; it is about the size of the Common Gull,



Fig. 14.

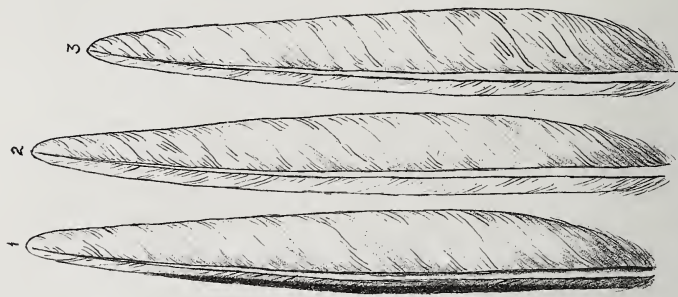


Fig. 15.

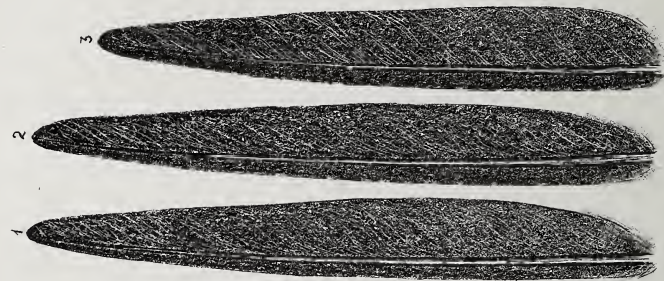


Fig. 16.

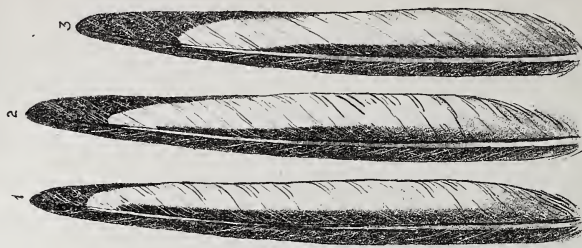


Fig. 17.

a little smaller perhaps, but may easily be distinguished from that bird by the colour of the legs and feet, and by the pattern of the primaries, fig. 12 being the first three primaries of the Common Gull, and fig. 13 the first three of the Kittiwake. It may also be known by its having no hind toe, which has partly caused it to be generically separated from the other Gulls; the genus *Rissa* having been originated to include the Kittiwake and one other Gull, *Rissa brevirostris*, an inhabitant of the North Pacific, which either has no hind toe, or a very rudimentary one. There are other reasons for separating these two birds generically from the other Gulls, as mentioned in Mr. Howard Saunders's paper on *Larinæ*, in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* for 1878. There is another small Gull, the Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*, an occasional straggler as far south as Somerset; a very good adult specimen obtained in the county, being in Dr. Woodforde's collection. In adult plumage it may always be distinguished from other Gulls by being pure white. The young bird has some dusky spots on the body, and the quills and tail feathers are tipped with the same. This Gull is the sole representative of the genus *Pagophila*, being generically separated from the other Gulls on account of its short stout bill, coarse rough feet, and other peculiarities about the feet, as described in Mr. Howard Saunders's paper above quoted. The small Dark-headed Gulls, of which there are several species scattered over the world, may generally be distinguished by the pattern of their primaries; the colour of the hood, too, is different in some of them, but on the whole a good many of the species are very much alike, and may easily be mistaken for each other. The only one that occurs in this county is the *Larus ridibundus*; it rejoices in several English names, as the Peewit Gull, the Red-legged Gull, and the Black-headed Gull, the latter having been adopted by the editors of the Ibis list; but to avoid confusion, I always prefer to speak of it by its Latin name, *Larus ridibundus*. It is very common in our county from autumn to spring, but does not remain to breed

here; and I have not very often seen a Somerset specimen with a full dark hood. It may, without much difficulty, be mistaken for the Adriatic Gull, *Larus melanocephalus*, which has once been met with in England, amongst a flock of the common *Larus ridibundus*. As it occurs on the coasts of Spain and Portugal, and on the French coast as far as Bordeaux, it is by no means improbable that it may occur in our own county some day. It may be easily overlooked, and passed as a common *Larus ridibundus*; but it may be known from that bird at all times by its thicker and comparatively shorter bill; and in summer by the hood, which is then black in *Larus melanocephalus*, dark-brown only in *Larus ridibundus*. The pattern of the primary quills is also different, the adult *Larus ridibundus* having the three first primaries white, with a border of black, not quite perfect on the outer web (fig. 14); whilst the fully adult *Larus melanocephalus* has only a small streak of black on the outer web, the rest of that feather and the two next feathers being white (fig. 15). The immature *Larus melanocephalus* has the first primary black, the two next having only a small portion of white on the inner web. A figure of the primaries of the young of *Larus melanocephalus* will be found in Mr. Howard Saunders's paper on the *Larinæ*, in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* for 1878. Another dark-hooded Gull, the Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*, has occurred certainly once, if not oftener, in the British Isles, and was recorded in the *Taunton and Somerset Gazette*, in the *Archæological and Natural History Notes and Queries*, for February, 1882, as having occurred at Curry Rivel. But this record must certainly be set down as a case of mistaken identity, as on further inquiry it turned out not to be *Larus atricilla*. What it really was I have not discovered, as the bird, or rather birds,—for two were mentioned,—appear to have been sold, and I have not been able to trace them; in all probability they were both *Larus ridibundus*, at different ages. To prevent such mistakes in future, I may point out that *Larus*

atricilla has black primaries (fig. 16), which immediately distinguish it from the other Gulls in this group; it has also a darker mantle. It is an American Gull, ranging on both coasts of America, from about lat. 45° north to the Amazons. Another American hooded Gull which has occasionally straggled to the British Islands, is Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*; though I do not know that it has ever been recorded as having occurred in this county. It is rather a smaller bird than either of the others above mentioned, and may be distinguished from them by the pattern of the primary quills; it perhaps most resembles *Larus ridibundus*, but differs from that bird in the distribution of the black and white on the first three primaries, having the outer web black; the black on the inner web of each being next to the shaft (fig. 17),—not on the outside, as in *Larus ridibundus*; the shaft, also, is dark, except where the white on the inner web runs up to, and touches, it. Another, the Great Black-headed Gull, or Caspian Gull, as it is sometimes called, *Larus ichthyaëtus*, has occurred once in the neighbouring county of Devon. As it is as big, or nearly as big, as a Herring Gull, it would hardly be mistaken for either of the other Hooded Gulls above mentioned, should it ever extend its wanderings as far as this county. The Little Gull, *Larus minutus*, which also has a dark hood in the breeding plumage, has occurred several times here, generally in the immature plumage, in which it resembles the Tarroch or young Kittiwake: it may always be distinguished from the other Hooded Gulls by its small size—being considerably smaller than *Larus philadelphia*, the smallest of those mentioned above. The young bird in the Tarroch plumage also differs from the *Larus philadelphia*, in having a slightly forked tail,—this it loses in its adult plumage, the tail then being square,—and in having the black next the shaft in the first three primaries continuous the whole way up, the white nowhere running up to the shaft, as in a *Larus philadelphia* of about the same age, as shown in fig. 17. In the adult Little

Gull the primary quills are French-grey throughout their length, except the tips, which are white. Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*, is a northern Gull, generally inhabiting Greenland, North America, and North-Eastern Asia, straggling to the south in autumn and winter. It has occurred more than once in this county, but always in immature plumage, and has, I know, been occasionally confounded with the Little Gull, a smaller bird. *Xema sabini* may, in any plumage, and at any age, be distinguished by its deeply-forked tail as well from any other British Gull, as from all other Gulls, except one; this one being *Xema furcatum*, a much larger bird, as yet found twice only—once in California, and once in the Galapagos Islands. For these two forked-tailed Gulls, the genus *Xema* has been established.

Amongst the Skuas occasionally visiting this county, I think there are only two that need distinguishing; the two larger, the so-called Common Skua, *Stercorarius cataractes*, and the Pomatorhine Skua, *Stercorarius pomatorhinus*, are too unlike the other British Skuas and each other to need any special identification. The larger one, the Common Skua, has indeed two near relatives much like it, but as the home of both of these is south of the Equator, I do not think I need say anything about them, at least not until they pay us a visit in this county of Somerset, when I shall be happy to identify them, and read a paper on the occurrence before this Society. The two smaller Skuas, however, Richardson's Skua, *Stercorarius crepidatus*, and the Arctic or Buffon's Skua, *Stercorarius parasiticus*, both occasionally found in this county, are rather less distinct. The adult birds indeed, are not so very much alike, as Richardson's Skua, slightly the larger of the two, may always be distinguished by the shorter tail—that is to say, the two long central tail feathers do not project nearly so far beyond the others as in Buffon's Skua; Richardson's Skua has also a band of pale-brown on the breast, which is wanting in Buffon's Skua. The young birds, however, as is so often the case, are rather

more difficult to distinguish, but the immature Buffon's Skua is always a sort of sooty-black, with white margins to the feathers; while Richardson's Skua of the same age is a dirt-brown, with pale yellow margins to the feathers. Another distinction, and perhaps a more certain one, as the colour in both birds varies slightly, is that in Richardson's Skua the shafts of all the primaries are white, while in Buffon's Skua the shafts of the first two only are white, those of the rest being black.

As I had to record the occurrence of the Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus anglorum*, at Milverton, quite inland in this county, in September, 1882, in the *Zoologist* for that year, p. 433, I may point out that the Dusky Shearwater, *Puffinus obscurus*, has certainly occurred in Norfolk once, and has probably occurred more frequently, and been overlooked or confounded with the Manx Shearwater. The Dusky Shearwater is rather a smaller bird than the Manx, as will appear from the following table of measurements taken from a paper by Mr. Stevenson in the *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society*. According to him, the measurements of the Dusky Shearwater, killed in Norfolk, now in the Norwich Museum, are as follows:—

The total length is from	...	12 in. to 11 $\frac{1}{16}$ in.
Beak		1 1
Carpal joint to end of primary		7 $\frac{3}{16}$ 7 $\frac{3}{16}$
Tarsus		1 $\frac{7}{16}$ 1 $\frac{7}{16}$
Middle toe and claw	...	1 $\frac{5}{8}$ 1 $\frac{5}{8}$

while the same measurements in the Manx Shearwater are :

Total length		15 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Beak		1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carpal joint to end of primary		9 $\frac{3}{8}$ 9 $\frac{3}{8}$
Tarsus		1 $\frac{7}{8}$ 1 $\frac{7}{8}$
Middle toe and claw	...	2 2

In plumage the Dusky Shearwater has the back and all the upper parts darker than the same parts in the Manx Shearwater; *Yarrell* describes them as "ink-black" in the Dusky, and brownish-black in the Manx; certainly no one could in

any state of plumage call the upper parts of the Manx Shearwater "ink-black," though fully adult birds with white breast and under parts, have the upper parts darker than young birds of the year, especially shortly after the moult.

The Fork-tailed or Leach's Petrel, *Procellaria leucorrhoa*, and the Storm Petrel, *Procellaria pelagica*, are the two last birds that I shall mention. They both occur occasionally in this county, the Storm Petrel, however, most frequently, as may be supposed from its breeding in numbers at the Scilly Islands, sparingly on Lundy Island, and at several stations in the Channel Islands. Here, however, it occurs only when storm-driven, and generally in the autumn. It may be distinguished from the Fork-tailed Petrel by its smaller size, and by the tail being square instead of forked; the wings, too, are longer than the tail, whereas in the Fork-tailed Petrel they are not so long as the long outer feathers of the tail, though longer than the short central ones. These distinctions would always be sufficient for anyone to identify these two birds, should either of them fall into his hands. The Fork-tailed Petrel, though rarer in this county than the Storm Petrel, has occurred at Weston-super-Mare, and in one instance at Combwich, on the Bridgwater river; it has also occurred when storm-driven inland, one being picked up some years ago by Mr. Esdaile, at Cothelstone, where it is still preserved.

I have not been able to mention the distinctions between all the nearly allied and somewhat similar birds which occasionally visit our county, and perhaps not between all the commoner residents, but I think I have mentioned most of those birds whose similarity of appearance has, as far as my experience goes, caused difficulties as to identity, and which consequently require study to prevent mistakes. It is impossible, perhaps, to guard against all mistakes in identity. For instance, a few years ago I had a small Australian Sulphur-crested Parakeet, *Nymphicus novæ hollandiæ*, of Wigler, brought to me as a Great Grey Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*, the then owner having shot it somewhere in

this parish, and brought it to me as a rare bird. I believe it is still somewhere in existence in our Museum. Even but a few days ago an escaped Pelican, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, killed somewhere on Exmoor, was brought into Taunton as a Common Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*. These two mistakes, however, have not done much mischief, as of course I took care that the Parakeet was not recorded, and I have not yet seen any record of the escaped Pelican, either as a Pelican or a Cormorant. More mischief, however, has arisen from the somewhat careless record in *Science Gossip* for March, 1876, of the occurrence at Wincanton, of the Demoiselle Crane, *Grus virgo*. Some one who had never seen the bird, but only identified it from a description in *Cassell's Natural History*, without any hint as to the possibility of a mistake in the identity or in the description, sent his account to *Science Gossip*, from whence the record was copied into the *Zoologist*, into the *List of British Birds* by the Ibis Committee, and into the new edition of *Yarrell*; though, fortunately, in neither of these last mentioned publications is it placed in the list of positively authenticated British birds. It was only through some enquiries that I made at the request of the Editor of the new *Yarrell*, that the extremely unsatisfactory nature of the original record in *Science Gossip* was brought to light. As birdy people—especially members of the B. O. U.—are rightly very sceptical, though not always, perhaps, sufficiently so to guard against mistakes, it would be as well that more care on the subject of identity should be taken in the record of rare specimens. If there be any doubt, the person making the record should state his opportunity of identifying the bird, and whether from sight, or only from the description of some one who, perhaps, did not know the distinguishing points. It should be remembered, also, that such a requirement of verification does not imply a doubt as to the recorder's truthfulness, but only as to his chances of forming a judgment—occasionally by no means a very easy thing to do. It is in the hope

of making this more easy that I have prepared these two papers on distinctions. As I could not, in this written paper, show the skins of the various birds mentioned, and so point out the distinctions from the birds themselves, my daughter has drawn a few figures illustrative of them, which have been very faithfully reproduced. This, of course, could only be done in a very few cases, and not at all where colour alone was an essential point.

The Somerset Type of Church compared with that of some other Counties.

BY B. EDMUND FERREY, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

IN France, Spain, or Italy we are frequently whirled for two or three hundred miles, through very flat country, with but little variety in the trees, or crops, or architecture. In England, on the contrary, there are great changes even in a short journey of fifty miles. To account for this we must examine below the surface of the ground, and then find that it is the geological formation which is the main-spring of these changes; and that from these diverse formations we get our treasure house of many types of architecture. Perhaps there is scarcely a single county in England with greater variety of *landscape* than Somerset. Look at its most marked natural features—the great ranges of hills. There are the sterile, mountainous, and stony heights of Mendip; the lofty, wild range of the Blagdens; the soft-looking, wooded Quantocks. Then there is another variety—the peculiar green molehills, island-like, thrown up amid the broad and not inconsiderable alluvial plains, as those about Bridgwater, Glastonbury, and Langport; or another phase, the very undulating country with incessant “ups and downs” in the vicinity of Bath, round Wincanton, and in this very neighbourhood of Wiveliscombe. Though there is some soil in the county suitable for the manufacture of bricks and tiles, there are not many mediæval

examples remaining, for the sufficient reason that admirable building-stone of different kinds was always to be quarried bountifully in nearly every part. But at the present day the Bridgwater tiles, bricks, drain pipes, and pottery, have obtained good reputation; as have those at Pool, near Wellington, manufactured not longer than some ten or fifteen years; there are others made at Weston-super-Mare. If the ecclesiastical or other architecture of the different English counties is examined, it will, as a rule, be found, and very intelligibly too, that where the best building stones are available, there is the best architectural type. Glancing at the far north in Northumberland and Durham, we have the beautiful stone of which Durham Cathedral and Hexham church are built, and the splendid sandstone of Morpeth. Here, too, in the border county are found the low square towers, evidently built for defensive purposes or for refuge. Yorkshire possesses a grand array of building stones, a rival to Somerset in that respect; different, however, in composition, as they are mainly sandstones and magnesian limestones. There is the Benedictine Whitby Abbey, as well as many fine churches, built of Whitby crag moon-stone, much used in the county. Lincolnshire has its warm-coloured Ancaster stone, an oolite, besides an abundant supply in the neighbouring county of Nottinghamshire, where there is a remarkable group of limestones and sandstones at Mansfield. Derbyshire has its magnesian limestone at Bolsover and also the millstone grit. There is Northamptonshire, with the beautiful freestones of Barnack and Ketton, the possession of which must have encouraged the growth of its fine series of parish churches, generally crowned with spires.

In Bedfordshire are also many fine churches built of the fine-grained Totternhoe limestone, a material much used in the midland counties, but which unfortunately has not stood the test of weather, and is best employed internally.

Passing over the adjoining county of Wiltshire, with its three splendid oolites of Chilmark, Tisbury, and Wardour, we come

to Somerset. Though some of the quarries of the "Bath" stone are not actually in Somerset, they are so near the border that, with the others, they take their name from it. In the county is the Doultong stone, used at Wells Cathedral and Glastonbury Abbey, a wonderfully durable material. Ham-Hill stone, ruddy-looking in its youth, calm-looking and grey, covered with lovely tinted lichens in its old age; the red sandstone of Bishop's Lydeard and that neighbourhood; the sober-coloured blue lias, too often, alas! treacherously undurable, but forming the excellent paving stones and steps of Keinton and Street; and the Pennant, quarried near Bristol. The blue lias also produces that splendid material, the lime of Watchet, almost equal in strength to Portland cement. Then there is the white lias, such as is found in the neighbourhood of Wells and Shepton Mallet, resembling Caen stone in its white colour and texture. This is the stone employed in the sculpture of the arch mouldings to the west front of Wells Cathedral. Then, last, though not least, there is that rich purplish-red conglomerate, or pudding-stone, called Draycott, which will take a half-polish like marble; and the semi-freestone of Wedmore may be added.

Here certainly is a goodly list for one county. My contention is that this is one of the main causes of Somerset architecture being so good. As one of the objects of our Society is to study Natural History, this little geological disquisition must be pardoned.

Looking at the number of old roofs, panelled ceilings, bench ends, and screens, there cannot have been formerly any stint in the supply of oak. As roads for wheel-carriages scarcely existed, and everything had to be carried on pack-horses, it is unlikely that it was brought from any great distance. Unless there was water-carriage we do not find that building materials were ever conveyed very far. Thus, Caen stone, from Normandy, was much employed in Essex, where freestone is very scarce; on the opposite shore of the estuary of the Thames,

chalk was to be had, and in the 15th century Kentish rag was used, procured from near Maidstone.

In the mountainous districts of Great Britain, as might be expected, the churches are on a smaller scale, and the architecture less worthy of attention. This doubtless arises from the difficulty of working the stubborn mountain limestone, and the difficulties of transport. The scarcity of freestone has set its mark very determinedly on the Sussex, Kent, and Surrey type of church. In Sussex the flints, so abundant, have given us a form of simple, but effective, ecclesiastical architecture, peculiar to that county, singularly unlike that of Somerset, though equally beautiful in its way. There are the long grey walls, rarely with buttresses; the simple lancet windows, the modest-looking towers and spires, covered with oak shingling; the trussed rafter, and open-timbered roofs. The stone from Caen, previously mentioned, is also frequently found. Instead of the stone gable copings, so universal in Somerset, the profuseness of oak has led to the use of barge boards, while the towers are often constructed, as is also the case in the neighbouring county of Surrey, of massive timbers rising straight from the ground. The porches frequently have rich open-work tracery panelling. In fact, I do not suppose there is one county in England differing more from Somerset, in its architecture, and the materials employed, than does Sussex. Yet one point of similarity must be mentioned; the use of stone external covering to the roof, in the one case Horsham, in the other Ham Hill; each equally of a heavy description, very unlike the lighter stone employed for the same purpose in Oxfordshire and in Lancashire. These materials have not well stood the test of experience, and so, in the present day, are generally replaced by plain tiles, or slates.

How widely different to this county which, with all its lovely scenery, has no chalk within its borders, so that such a church as I have endeavoured to shadow forth would look curiously out of place!

The Dorsetshire churches approach the Somerset type in the

bodies of the buildings, but in respect of the towers, they are certainly not so fine, though of the same great period, the Perpendicular. The low-pitched lead-covered roof, with tie-beams, filled in with rich tracery above, and the panelled parapets, are characteristic of both counties. Dorsetshire has its chalk downs, and so we find flints used in its churches. But it possesses a freestone, better known and more famed, perhaps, than any other in England, *i.e.*, Portland. The marble from the Isle of Purbeck has stamped its impress upon many a mediæval cathedral and church, and there are capital specimens of it in the interior of the Cathedral of this Diocese. The Swanage rough stone also is useful and durable.

Still further west, the county of Devon is reached, where, as a general rule, the churches are smaller and less interesting. The grand tower, to a great extent, disappears. But there are several points of similarity; the wagon-headed ceiling, with its carved bosses; the richly-panelled or carved bench ends; and the rood-screens, often painted. In freestones used in building, Devon is not so rich as this county, either in extent or variety. Beer stone, of which Exeter Cathedral and many other fine buildings are constructed, is the most important. Granite is also used, and, naturally, has had the influence of making plain churches. In the neighbourhood of Plymouth the celebrated marbles are quarried; these, however, have not had much effect on the architecture of the Middle ages. In the north-west part of Somerset, a peculiar type of small carved capital is seen, exceedingly like that of Devon, generally of late 15th, or even 16th century work. Sculptured figures of angels to each cardinal point of the capitals frequently occur, each bearing emblems of the Passion, or perhaps some musical instrument.

The Cornish churches have several points of resemblance to the Somerset; and here I must beg pardon if I repeat what has no doubt been said much better by others. Like those of Somerset, the earlier Cornish churches were cruciform. These early ones are built of sandstone; the later

ones, erected during the same period as so many in Somerset, are built of granite. In plan, the normal 15th century Cornish church takes a considerable departure from those of this county, and is certainly monotonous. Three span-roofed aisles of nearly equal width, prolonged from the west to the east—the latter walls frequently flush the whole width—constitute a plan not equal to the more usual Somerset type. Indeed, the lead-covered aisle roof, of low inclination, with parapet, affords more variety than the compass-shaped roofs, with eaves, of many of these Cornish churches. The nave and chancel being generally under an unbroken, continuous roof, the effective feature of a chancel arch is wanting, though its place is to some extent supplied by an oak rood screen. The roofs internally are not unlike a type of the Somerset, having the collar-beam trusses, with curved braces under them, and the wagon-headed ribbed and panelled ceiling. In some parts of Cornwall the mediæval architects seem to have endeavoured to emulate their brethren here, regardless of the fact that they had to deal with a substance very different to the facile working stones of Somerset. At Launceston, and in the parish church of Truro,—parts of which, I believe, are now being incorporated in the new Cathedral,—many granite blocks, placed externally, are carved in an extraordinary way with foliage, scarcely a spot of plain surface being left. The ornamentation cannot be called diapering; for although the same pattern is often repeated, there are considerable minor variations in the design. In its external roof covering, Cornwall has a decided advantage over many other counties. It possesses a good durable slate, small in size, of a pleasing grey, or sometimes greyish-green hue; so that the eye is not offended, as it may be by the large, cold blue Welsh slate. The Delabole slates obtained their wide reputation years before the Welsh and Westmoreland slates became so much in use.

In Cornwall, as elsewhere in England, there are generally few interments north of the church, because of its sunless

aspect, and because in the middle ages this side was deemed the source of the cold wind and the haunt of Satan. At Wellcombe, near Morwenstow, there is an entrance called the Devil's door, adjoining the font, which was only opened at the time of the renunciation made in baptism, for the escape of the fiend.

Attention may next be drawn to the North Wales type, worth mentioning in comparison with our Somerset examples. Here, as in Cornwall and other parts where rain is frequent and abundant, and tempestuous weather no unusual experience, the nave and chancel are under one unbroken roof; the practical advantage being that there is one weak point less in the roof by which wet can enter; there is no more likely place for this than the junction between the slates or tiles and the stone gable coping. The churches are generally long, of little width, and no great height; commonly without aisles,—for the villages are small, and the population sparse. The nave has an open timbered roof; curved wind braces, profusely cusped, being frequently introduced to stiffen the roof laterally,—a feature not only constructionally good, but very pleasing, from the manner in which it so quickly makes a plain roof ornamental. The chancel has a polygonal-panelled ceiling; not a wagon-head, as in Somerset. Towers are the exception, not the rule; they are generally of a rude description, with scarcely an architectural feature, but picturesque, owing to their outline.

The great distinction between the Lincolnshire and Somerset examples is in respect to the dates when they were erected; for in the former there is much more work of the Early English and Decorated periods, and less of the later styles. The roofs of the Lincolnshire churches are usually of trussed rafter construction, quite unlike our local examples.

I never saw in any Somerset church so curious an intermingling of two very different coloured materials as at Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. Some of the internal arches appear to have been built without any method whatever as to

the stone of which they are composed. Some are entirely of the yellowish Ketton stone, others with only a stone or two of this, and the rest a reddish iron-stone; while others have the proportion of half iron-stone, half Ketton.

The round towers so frequently found in Norfolk are non-existent in this county. The absence of parapets is a peculiar feature in the Norfolk churches; the line of overlapping lead defining the junction of the roof with the walls. It is curious that in Norfolk, as well as in distant Herefordshire, detached towers to the churches are found as a localism. Like Somerset, Norfolk is rich in screens and woodwork. Suffolk has a characteristic in its flush work, as it is technically called, formed of cut flints devised in patterns, with free-stone in parapets, etc., externally, of which the Lady chapel at Melford is an exquisite example.

The county of Bucks is poor in building stone, and this is probably the cause of the churches being usually plain, with very little delicate detail, and with rough walls. Like Somerset, it possesses very few spires, but has some capital specimens of towers, principally of the Perpendicular style.

Oxfordshire has many interesting churches, though small. There are but few rebuilt entirely during the Perpendicular period, as most of the examples are additions or alterations to older structures. Though the vicinity of Oxford has many building-stone quarries, much of it has unfortunately proved to be very perishable. Berkshire is not a county rich in fine churches, most of them are of small size; but there are many of them erected from the middle of the 12th to the middle of the 13th century, as at Wantage and Childrey, which possess much interest for the archæological student. Good building stone is scarce, so that flint and chalk are principally used. The wood-work is not equal to that of Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, or of the Eastern counties.

Let me now endeavour to draw attention more particularly to the architecture of the county wherein we are assembled,

still keeping in mind the title of my paper—a comparison. There can be nothing more beautiful and effective than the cruciform plan of many of the earlier churches, before the great wave of the Perpendicular style swept over the country. We there see the pleasing contrast of light and shade caused by the projecting arms of the transept, with the appropriate finish (at the intersection or the crossing) of the central tower, the almost invariable accompaniment in England of this form of church. However beautiful the latter developments of the architecture of the 15th and 16th centuries may be, their forms cannot rival this cruciform plan. Sometimes we find the remains of the earlier plan enclosed and incorporated in a larger church of a later period. I have already mentioned the western gable turret, so usual in the churches of North Wales, and in several English counties, but very rare here. It is generally met with only in the form of a sancte bell-cot over the east gable of the nave, as at Long Ashton and other places in that district, where it appears to be a localism. The grand Somerset towers, with their characteristics, have been already almost exhaustively treated. Of the towers of distant counties, perhaps the Norfolk examples most nearly approach them with their pinnacles, though generally inferior in height and size, and of plainer detail. The partly octagonal tower was certainly a feature in some parts of Somerset, anterior to the period of the great Perpendicular towers. In other counties, omitting Northampton, they are quite the exception. Somerton, Barton St. David, and Weston-Bampfylde, are good specimens of this type. In this county, I do not know a single instance of an ancient gable or saddle-backed tower. The form is rare in England, though usual enough in the North of France, and the examples are generally small and plain.

In many towers the stair turrets are a conspicuous decorative feature externally, giving variety to the general effect. In counties where there is little freestone, but where oak was abundant, as at Whitchurch, Hampshire, the stair turret is of

that material, standing inside the tower, just clear of the walls, and picturesquely treated, the enclosing framework being perforated and ornamentally cusped. While on the subject of turrets, the lofty octagonal rood-stair turrets existing in this county, which are not so prevalent elsewhere, must be mentioned, as well as the square-edged, slightly projecting rood stair-turret, gabled at the top, as at Portishead, the greater portion of the steps being in the thickness of the walls.

The splendid range of clerestories—two windows to each bay—so common in Norfolk, is very exceptional in this part of the world. There is a brilliant exception to this at Congresbury. The perforated stone panelling to the bell-chamber windows of towers, instead of oak louvres, is a very charming and well known feature of the Somerset churches,—almost peculiar to them,—though it is to be sometimes met with in Dorsetshire. Another characteristic of the 15th century here is the panelled arch and pier, scarcely ever occurring to the nave arcade, but very often to the tower or the chancel arch, sometimes to the arches separating the chancel from its chantry chapels. One of the best and boldest specimens in my experience is that to the tower arch at Evercreech. The kind of vaulting—approaching to fan-tracery in the ground storeys of towers and in porches—is also a characteristic. The pierced parapets are another peculiarity. The trussed rafter roof, with curved braces and moulded purlines, is more prevalent in this county than any other. The tie-beam principals, with pierced ornamental panels are found here and in Dorsetshire. The nearly flat ceiling, with massive moulded ribs, divided and sub-divided into panels, with elaborate carving and enriched cusps, deeply recessed, is found to perfection in the nave aisles of Bruton and Kilmersdon, and is quite characteristic of Somerset. In the nave aisles of Yatton and South Petherton are responds or attached columns next the outer walls, carrying the roof trusses—a rare feature where there is no vaulting.

In window tracery, Somerset cannot be said, either in the

earlier or later styles, to hold any position very superior to other counties. Roofs of stone, forming the external roof and internally the ceiling also, are uncommon in England, though more usual in Ireland and in Spain. There are examples at the Porch, Leverington, Norfolk, and at Barnack, and a few others. Abbotsbury chapel is an example in the neighbouring county of Dorset. The only instance I am aware of in Somerset is to an interesting chantry chapel or aisle to the north side of Limington church, near Ilchester, of the 15th century. Even in churches of the Decorated period, there is no Somerset example that has the profuse ball-flower ornamentations to be found in parts of Herefordshire, and in Gloucestershire.

I have already contrasted the Somerset and Northamptonshire churches, but for one moment would draw attention to a remarkable window in the interesting church of Oundle, in the latter county. It is of the Early Decorated period, very long and narrow; in fact, singularly un-English in its proportions—though in all other particulars English—more like German or French work.

Somerset is unusually rich, compared with other counties, in mediæval stone and wood pulpits, as might be expected from the preponderance of the churches built during the Perpendicular period. Some have the remains of the ancient colouring upon them, as at Cheddar. Stoups or benaturas are not infrequent, being either in the south porch or attached to the west doorway, if that were more used and nearer the town or village. In floor brasses, Somerset and other western counties have to yield the palm to the East of England.

It is one of the great advantages of the later churches that the wood fittings are so complete. In a 13th century building this is not the case. Screens, bench ends, and such like adjuncts, which so warm up and brighten the structures of the 15th and 16th centuries, are not present. There is, of course, considerable archæological and historical interest in works of

several dates in a church, but an architectural completeness in an entire building, finished in one style, is the case in many of the examples in this interesting county.

Obviously I have but touched upon the fringe of a very small part of the large subject selected for this essay, but I trust it will be sufficient to show the value of comparisons.

On some Star Chamber Proceedings, 34th Elizabeth, 1592.

BY REV. FREDK. BROWN, M.A., F.S.A.

THE following narrative, taken from the Proceedings of the Star Chamber Court, has been extracted *verbatim* on account of its immediate local interest, and as bringing to notice some very curious manners and customs of the time.

The complainant in the case was "Roger Sydenham, of North Quarum, in the parish of Exton, Somt., Gent., Ranger of the Forest of Exmore in Somt. and Devon." He sets out that "there had always ben kept a Game of Red Deare in the forest; and being given to understand of some spoile lately committed on them by Humphry Sydenham, Robert Langham, Richard Hurford, and others, he made known the same to Sir John Poyntz, Kt., Chief Forester of the said Forest; whereupon Sir John, in the Term of St. Michael 'last past,' preferred a Bill of Complaint against the above offenders, and willed Roger Sydenham to follow the said cause against them. Subpænas were served upon them, which they contemptuously disobeyed, and Process was ordered against them." The remainder of the story will be better told in its original wording. "Thereupon, they, about the Feast of the Birth of our Lord last past, confederating with one Humphry Quireke and others, it was agreed that a Bill of Complaint should be preferred, in the name of John Langham and Edmund Horner, as Plaintiffs against Roger Sydenham, and it was agreed, that a certeyn Ale should be made in the name of some poor men, without any Licence or Authority, to procure the people and in-

habitants of sundry Parishes thereabouts to come to the said Ale, and then to expend divers soms of money, which was indeed to no other end, but that such benefit as should rise and come by means thereof, should be bestowed on the maintenance of such suits so commenced against your Subject, as should defray such fees as should be required, which Ale the said Robert Langham and the others caused to be proclaimed to be sold in the Church House of the Parish of Skilgate, Somerset, of which Parish your Subject being then Churchwarden, and disliking of the publication, and putting of the said Ale in the said Church House, did desire the same to be removed, and removing thereof, some of the said Ale became wasted. After which tyme, the same Robert Langham and the other confederates did, in vearry riotous and disordered manner, break open the door of the said Church House, and did again place there the aforesaid Ale, privately, of three or four Hundred Gallons, and about Easter last past, did send unto near about 16 or 17 Parish Churches, near unto Skilgate, Notes in Writing to the Parson, Vicar, or Curate of every of the said Parishes, requiring and willing them, openly in their Churches, at the tyme of Divine Service, upon some Sondag or Hollyday, to signify and unlawfully make proclamacion unto his Parishioners, that the said Robert Langham and others, whose names were colourably used, would request the inhabitants of the said Parishes to come and spend their money at the aforesaid Ale, which was done in everie of the said Parish Churches accordingly."

"And further also, in most manifest abuse of these Ministries, the aforesaid Humphry Sydenham, a Captaine of a certeyne Band of trained soldiers within the said County, did send forth precepts, or commandments, to all or most parts of the trained Soldiers of his Band, to appear before him at Skilgate, with their furniture, to muster. And thereupon, dyvers of them, to their great trouble and hindrance of their other occasions of business, repaired to Skilgate at that tyme, where-

as there was no sufficient warrant or just cause why any such muster at all should be; but being in this sort assembled, where thene employed only in the drinkinge of Ale, and for fear of their Captaine's displeasure, were made to spend money at the Ale more than some of them had gotten in money before."

"The like whereof, he, Humphry Sydenham, performed at divers other tymes, in the 32nd and 33rd years of Your Majesty's Reign, at all which several tymes, Humphry Sydenham did, by his Precept and Warrant as a Captain of 300 soldiers, send for and sommon about 100 men of his Trained Band, with their furniture and weapons, to come to Dulverton, in the said County, to a Byd-ale of one John Glasse, a servant or friend of Humphry Sydenham, or of some other; upon which somons, the said Company thither repaired accordingly, and were employed only in drinking of Ale, and spending their money in such sort, as is aforesaid."

"And upon Thursday in Easter Week last past, being a Hollyday, Humphry Quircke and others, by appointment with the said Robert Langham and others, did, in very riotous, disordered, and unwarranted manner, in great troupes and companyes, to the terror of the whole Country, repair from the Town of Taunton and other places, to Skilgate, to the said Ales, and brought there divers persons, so many as they could by any means procure, and appointed one Milton, son of John Milton, to stand upon a hill near unto Skilgate Church, where he might view, almost a myle from the said hill, the coming of the said appointed companyes, to the intent that he might bring intelligence of their coming to the said Langham, (Hurford and others being then in the said Church of Skilgate at the time of Divine Service,) of purpose that, whensoever they came near, they would cause Divine Service to be surceased, and the Belles to be runge out, with many other outrageous practices; and Milton, so watching, and attending to view, as far as he could, the coming of the said companye, as soon as

he hadd espied a great number of them coming in such sort as before, did very vehemently come into the said Church of Skilgate, the Curate then being, with the whole assemblie of the Parishioners there come, in the myddest of Divine Service, in the forenoon of the same day, and in the beginning of his reading of the Homily then appointed to be redd, and then and there, the said Milton cried out with a loud voice, ‘ They are come! they are come! Mr. Langham; ring out the Bells!!’ Whereupon the said Langham privately commanded the Curate to surcease service, and caused the Bells of the Church there to be rung oute, and dyvers baggpipes to be blowne out, to the great dishonour of Almighty God, and in contempt of your Majestie’s Laws, and disturbance of the said Divine Service, and to the great admiracion and evil example of all the people there present, and the raising upp of numbers of people in the Country about, by this unwonted ringing out of Bells. And, in this outrageous and lawles manner, they went out of the said Church of Skilgate, to meet the said Companyes so coming, to go to drinke. Also this and many other such like unlawful demeanours were used, in and about the selling of the aforesaid Ale, and the procuring of companye to spend their money.”

“ And they, by way of extortion upon your Majesties subjects, have levyed to the some of or about three score pounds, and have also, within one year last past, by confederacy, collected and gathered divers other somes among themselves, and sundry other confederates, by way of maintenance, of purpose to be imployed to the maintenance of suites against the aforesaid Sir John Poyntz, and your said subject and their friendes, all which now is, and dayly hath been ever sithence, (by the said Robert Langham, John Langham, Edmund Horner, Humphry Quireke, Richard Hurford, John Milton) used and spent, and imployed by way of maintenance accordingly, to the great vexacion and injury of your said subject and divers of his friends.”

“But they, the said Robert Langham and others not hereby content, but seeking and desiring by any undewe meanes to mayme, wound and spoile your said subject, did, in or about the 2nd of May last past, in very lawless and disordered manner, assemble themselves in the Straunde, in the Countie of Midd^x, near unto Temple Bar, London; and having procured, then and there, unto themselves divers riotous persons, as, namely, one . . . Rattenbury, and divers others to the number of eight or nine persons, as yet unknown, weaponed and prepared, determining and agreeing to stabb and kill your said subject in his lodging, or wherever he would be found; and did, then and there, lye in wayte to have assaulted your said subject, as he should come from his business abroad to his lodging, being at an Inne called the sign of the ‘Swan,’ in the Straunde aforesaid; and they understanding that he, before their coming, was past to his lodging, by practice and agreement among themselves, sent the said Rattenbury to the chamber and lodging of your subject, to the intent he should pike a quarrell to your said subject, and challenge him to the fiede, and appoint a place to fight with him, and when your subject should come to the place appointed, he should there, by these riotous persons, have been slayne and killed; which challenge the said Rattenbury came and made unto your said subject, in his owne chamber, about nyne of the clocke in the evening of the same second day of May. And your subject, although not for his own person fearing the said Rattenbury alone, yet for that he doubted of this pretence, and for that also he then had, and yet hath, a wief and divers children, and is possessed of lands, and having them, he would not so rashly put them in aventure, he refused to appoint any place to fight with the said Rattenbury. Whereupon the said Rattenbury, with many threatening words ‘of feight wheresoever he met him,’ departed, and returning to those his said company and confederates, it was then and there againe fully agreed and concluded among them, as before, that the said Rattenbury, or some other of the said company, should

lie in wayte for your said subject, in or near his said lodging in the Strand aforesaid, and should stabb and kill him with his dagger or other weapon, which they, by all means they could, attempted to have performed accordingly."

"And further, so it is, if it like your Highness, that the said Edmond Horner, being a bad man, and a comon disturber of your Majesties Peace and quiet, procuring unto himself, divers riotous and disordered persons of like quality and conversation to himself, as namely, Jerome Horner, and other persons, to your subject unknown, to the number of 28 persons, all such being furnished, armed, and provided, in unlawful and warlike manner, with holberds, partizans, billes, swerdes, daggers, and other such like weapons, (without regard of your Majesties Lawes and ordinances provided and used against Riots, Routes, and unlawful assemblies), did, in this form and manner, assemble and gather themselves togeather at, in, or near the Town of Taunton, Somerset, in or upon the 17th day of June, in the one-and-thirtieth year of your Majesties prosperous Raigne; on which daye there was a Faire then kept in the said Towne of Taunton, and a great assembly of people there, and did then in the said open Faire, so armed, weaponed, and prepared as before, in vearly riotous, routeous, and outrageous manner, march up and down in the said Faire, to the great disturbance, terror, and admiracion of all such your Highness' subjects as weare in the said Faire. And under color of a certain pretended Title, which the said Edmund and Jerome Horner did then make unto the Baylewick of the Liberties of Taunton, they, in a riotous and forcible manner, took from the people in the said Faire divers parcells of their wares, and the same did destroy and kepe: and did, by means of their outrages and forces, compell divers persons which were there then to sell wares, to pay unto them divers somes of money, or to give and deliver to them some parts of their wares, having no such manner of right so to doe."

Several other charges of Riots in Taunton by the Horners

are made. They resisted the execution of a warrant granted by Edward Lancaster, Gent., the Baylif of the Liberties of Taunton, and refused to obey the same, and “with their weapons, did set upon and assault your said subject and the Bayliffe, and that so furiously, that if they had not defended themselves they should have been slayne and murdered, or maymed, and with force and violence rescued themselves.”

“And whereas these riotous persons, neither regarding their dueties towards God, nor esteyming any breaches of your Majesties Lawes, but still demeaning themselves in most lawles and outrageous order, to the disturbance of the said Towne of Taunton and the inhabitants of the whole country thereabouts, in the months of May, June, or July, in the 32nd year of your Majesties Reign, did assemble themselves together at Taunton, about eleven of the Clock in the night of the same day, all weaponed and prepared with monstrous weapons, and in the course of a vearly tumult, went from their place of lawful assembly to the house of one George Webb, in Taunton, which did then keep a Beare, or Beares, and comying thither about 12 of the clock at night, called out with very loude voyce, in strong and unwonted manner, and willed the said Beare-Keeper to bring out to them his Beare to the Ring to be bayted in the market-place of Taunton, which the Beare-Keeper refused to do, and told them ‘it was no fitt tyme to bayte Beares at that season of the night;’ thereupon the said rioters, with their weapons, did then and there, in riotous and forcible manner, break open the doors of the house of the Beare-Keeper and assaulted him in the said House, and riotously and forcibly did take from him his Beare, and carryed him through the streets of Taunton, near haulfe a myle in length, and also in divers villages near about Taunton, hooping and hollowing, and making most strange outcrys and unwonted noyses, beating at the doors of divers people; and some of the said doors they did break open, and suffered the said Beare to come aboute lose, thereby disturbing the whole Town, and also the inhabitants of divers villages, whereby

many of the inhabitants were so terrified that they were like to have been dryven out of their wittes and fallen madd ; and so in that sorte they caryed the said Beare into the open market place at Taunton, then being between the hours of twelve and one in the night, and then and there did, at that season of the night, by the space of three howers, with dogges and other devices, and whippes and wheelbarrows, bayt the said Beare, and did not tye the said Beare, but in this manner bayted him lose, and did then and there fall at variance with divers very honest inhabitants of good account and creditt, which came out of their houses to view the said outrage ; and did hurt very dangerously sundry of the Inhabitants of the said Town, which had in courteous manner endeavoured to persuade them to surcease and leave of their said misdemeanours. And they suffered the said Beare willingly to come into a house near unto the market-place, in which house was then a woman great with child, by reason whereof she was in great danger, and lyke to have been slayne by the said Beare. And the like riotous behaviour, bayting of the Beare, disturbance of the Town of Taunton, hurting of your Majesties subjects there, and the like misdemeanours, were by the said H. Quircke and others done in Taunton.”

“ They also assembled in riotous manner, and beate down all or most of the signs and Wyne hoopes of the Innes and Taverns of Taunton.”

Many other misdemeanours, such as riots, perjury, etc., were charged against them.

The sentences of the Star Chamber Court are not extant.

On Two Somerset Wills, temp. Edward VI, 1548.

BY A. J. MONDAY.

IT has been my privilege recently, through the kindness of R. A. Kinglake, Esq., to peruse several of the wills which had been proved in the Archidiaconal Court at Taunton, in the 16th century. It was a matter of interest at the time to note the almost marvellous advancement made in agriculture since the Tudor period of English history. The scarcity of money, and the high value set upon manufactured goods of all kinds also struck me as two of the leading features of rural life some three hundred and forty years ago.

Thinking that details of this description would prove of general interest, I have selected wills made in the 2nd year of Edward VI, by two individuals, who apparently belonged to that section of society which has been so aptly defined as "the pure Middle Class." Such material must serve well to illustrate the social condition of the rural population in West Somerset in early times, when almost all—from the highest to the lowest—were compelled, through necessity, to have recourse to that art and science for self-support—the original business of mankind—Agriculture.

The first will is that of Thomas Young, of Kingsbrompton.

"In the name of God Amen on the fourthe daie of Dece'ber in the yere of our Lord God 1548 and of the Raigne of our sou'aigne Lord Edward the VIth by the grace of god of England ffrunce and Ireland Kinge defendour of the faithe and in earthe of the church of England and Ireland the Supreme hed, I Thomas Yonge of the pishe of Kingesbrumpton beigne pfitte of mind and in good remembrance make my

Testament and last will in this wise ffirst I gewe and bequethe my soule to Almightye god to our blessed Ladie S^t Marie and to all the Saints of heaven and my bodie to be bueried in the churcheyarde of Kingsbrumpton above saide. Itm̄. I bequethe to the pore mens boxe there a xx^d. Itm̄. I bequethe to the pore mens boxe of Langford a xx^d. Item. I bequethe to Alice Zeyman my s^rūte ij lambes. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto Alice veysie ij Lambes. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto Johane yonge my s^rūte a vj^{li} xiijs^s iiij^d vppon this condicion that the said Johane doe abid in s^ruice wth my sonne John yonge vntill she be married soe that she be honestlie vsed wth him in meate drink and clothe. And if not I will the Rulers vnto my Executors vnderwriten to take her from him and to put her to a master to s^rue for her lyvinge and then my bequestes is that my sonne John shall paie to her mariage fyve m(ar)ks of good and lafull monie of England. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto Julian my s^ruante a vj^{li} xiijs^s iiij^d and xvij Shepe and the said Julian shall abide one yere wth my wief and my sonne if she be not married before that time. And the said vj^{li} xiijs^s iiij^d shall be paie in a diu(er)s payments as the p^ties maie agre to make paymente. Itm̄. I bequethe to the mariage of Alice Jordaine my sisters dawghter a ijs^s iiij^d and if she die before she be married it shall remaine to her yongeste child's marriage. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto Roger (Thomas' Eldest sonne of Buckland) a Shepe and vj^s viij^d of money. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto John Stere ye yonger my godsonne iiij^{or} Shepe or els at the daie of his mariage a viij^s which shall be att his pleasure to take the money or the Shepe. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto Willm̄ Smythe one of my three coates. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto Willm̄ White my Canvas Doublett and half a bz. (bushel) of Rie. Itm̄. I bequethe unto Phillippe Davie a paire of my olde hoses and half a bz. of Rie. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto Elizabeth yether half a bz. of Rie. Itm̄. I bequethe vnto eu(er)ie one of my godchildren a Shepe apece. Itm̄. I bequethe to the Vicar of Kingsbrumpton vj^s viij^d I bequethe to eu^eie of

the Rulers of my executours vnder writen vj^s viij^d apece. And to eu'ie of the witnesses of this testam^t vnder writen xx^d apece. The Reste of my goods, debts paide and this my will fulfilled, I geue and bequethe in forme vnder writen to Alice my wief and John my sonne, whome I make my executours, that they wth the advice consente and assente of John Steeare thelder and Nicholas Lande whome I appointe and make the Rulers to mynister and execute this my saide will in forme above writen and as here vnder is specified and declared; That is to saie as longe as my [said wief] dothe lyve sole and chaste and will be ordered by her Rulers, so longe my said wife to be executrix of my goods and landes. Neu'thelesse she shall assente and my Will is that the said Rulers doe bie the Reu(er)sion of my bargaine here of Liddon vnto my said sonne John Yonge whome I will tō marrie therin vnder his Mother, and to worke and labo^r there vppon for his lyvinge, not comaundinge his mother to anie worke or laboure, but onlie at her pleasure. And that my said sonne shall meddle, nether doe anie thinge uppon or in the said bargaine or in byinge or sellinge or changinge of beastes or takinge in of mowes, or in anie other things to be don uppon the bargains, wthout the consente of his mother. And likewise my wief to haue to doe wth nothinge wthout the consente of my forenamed sonne, and soe quietlie to liue one wth an other. And further if it happen my wief after suche time my sonne is married she canot agre to bide wth my saide sonne but will dwell at Gunham, then my bequest is vnto her one flock bedde p^rformed, iiij^{or} of my Kie [Kine], ij bullocks of xij monethes age, foure skore shepe chosen out of the beste of my flock, and my wief to take one man to chose one for her and my sonne a nother for him self vntill they have chosen xl apece of the beste, and then to refuse one beste and take the other of the seconde, half the poultrie, a gose, a gander, my seconde beste pan and one of the beste crocks, half a dosen of pewter vessell w^{ch} she shall haue to Gunham wth her. Also she shall haue the said bargaine and

my grownd called Stonehaie. Moreou', notwthstandinge anie of the premisses if it happen my saide wief to marrie then I vtterlie exclude her from my executrix Shippe and porcions before bequethed, and then my sonne to be my whole executour and to delu' his mother my bargaine of Gunhām, twoe of my beste kie [kine], twoe bullocks of one yere age, and a flock bedde pformed, w^{ch} I bequethe vnto her, and noe portion of my goodsels. To this beareth witnes Sir William Skinner vicar of Kingesbrumpton; John Holworthie, Marten Bryant, and William Stockham, whom I make supvisors of the above named Rulers, to thintente if they doe not accordinglie to the accomlishmente of this my Will I will eu'ie of the said witnes to take the Rule and execution hereof on them and the said Rulers putt a parte to see this will in eu'ie pointe accomplished."

Gunham, mentioned above,—or Gundenham,—is a manor house, long since converted into a farm house. It lies on the main road from Wellington to Milverton, and is in the parish of Langford Budville. It has been identified by means of the will of another person who lived at Langford, and who refers to it when making a special bequest to one of the Yonge family.

The will of Richard Yea, who lived at the same time in the parish of Wiveliscombe, and who appears to have been a substantial yeoman, furnishes considerable information respecting rural life at this period. The family of the Yea,—which appears to have derived its surname from an ancient district, known as La Ya, in the manor of South Brent, in Devon, belonging to the Abbey of Buckfast in that county,—increased its possessions in Somerset by the marriage of David Yea, of Oakhampton, in the parish of Wiveliscombe, with Ursula, the heiress of Edward Hobbes, Esq., of Stogursey and Brompton Ralph. Edward Hobbes was Sheriff of Somerset at the time of Monmouth's Rebellion. The family estates were still further augmented by the marriage of the heiress of Brewer, of Tolland, and the youngest daughter and co-heiress of Lacy, of

Hartrow. William Yea, Esq., was created a Baronet on the 11th of June, 1759, and Col. Walter Lacy Yea, the last lineal descendant and heir-apparent, whose military career promised so favourably for the future, fell bravely fighting at the head of his regiment, the 7th Fusileers, upon the unsuccessful attack upon the Redan during the Crimean campaign, so eloquently described by the author of the Crimean invasion; after which, in course of time, the title was inherited by his uncle, Sir Henry Yea, who, dying without issue, the baronetcy became extinct. The family seat had been removed at the latter end of the last century from Oakhampton to Pyrland, in the parish of Taunton St. James.

“In the name of God Amen the xxvth daie of Julie in the Seconde yere of or Lord God 1548 and in the Seconde yere of the Raigne of or Sou'aigne Lorde Edwarde the VIth by the grace of God of England ffrünce and Ireland Kinge defender of the faithe and in earthe nexte vnder christe of the Church of England and also of Ireland the Supreme hed I Richard yea of the prishe of Wyviliscombe in the dioces of Bath and Welles whole of minde and pfitte of Remembrance make my testament and last will in man' and forme folowinge ffirste I bequethe my soule to Almightye god and my bodie to be bueried in the church of Wyviliscombe aforeside. Also I geue and bequethe to the Repacion of the same Church for my bueriall there a vj^s viij^d Also to the Repaacon of the Cathedrall church of Welles I geue a xij^d I geue and bequethe to John yea my seconde beste salt of silu' pcell (parcel) gilte and half a dosen of silu' spones of the beste Dosen. a fetherbede, a paire of Shetes, a paire of blanketts, a cou'lett, and a box bolster, the twoe middle brasen crocks, the third beste brasen pan, vj platters, vj poteng' (potingers), and vj sauc's, one oxe, one cowe, half a skore of yeoes, and half a skore of wethers, not of the beste nor yet of the wurste sorte. Also I geue and bequethe to David yea the third best salte of silu' pcell gilte, half half a dosen of silu' spones of the beste dosen, a ffetherbedd, a paire of shetes, a

paire of blanketts, a cou'lett and a bolster the beste, and the leste newe brasen crocks, the seconde beste brasen pan, vj platters, vj poteng's, vj sawc's, one ox, one cowe, half a skore of yewes, and half a skore of wethers of the same sorte that his brother John is s^rued. Also I geve and bequethe unto Radegond Yae a cowe and a litle brasen crock; Provided alwaies that if the same Radigond doe departe this worlde before she be mairried that then she be browghte honestlie in earthe and the residew of her bequests to be retorned vnto John yae and to David yae her brothers equallie to be devided. Also provided John yae or David Yae doe dpte (depart) this worlde before they be of the age of xxj yeres if they or anie of them be vn-married that then I woulde that he who first deptethe should be honestlie brought in earth and the goodes to him bequethed shall be restored to him that lyveth, whether it be John or David. And if chance they doe depte out of this worlde both of them before they be married that then I woulde they be honestlie browghte in earthe; And Radigond yae there sister to haue of their goods a vj^{li} xiijs^s iiij^d And all the residue thereof to remaine vnto David Slocombe and Alice his Wief and to there children. Also I will y^t (that) if the foresaide John yae, David yae, and Radigond yae, or anie of them will not be ordered, ruled, governed, and married, by the advice and councell of David Slocombe and my ou'seers, that then my bequests to the bequethed, to be devided vnto the by the discretion of the same David Slocombe and my said ou'seers. Also I geue vnto Alice yae my wief xiiij^{li} vjs^s viij^d to be paide to her in money or monie worth. Also I geue and bequethe to the same Alice my wief all the beddinge that is lefte w^{ch} she browghte from Whitfeld, and all her apparell, naprie, beades, girdles and taches that she likewise browghte wth her. Also I geue to the same Alice my wief yerelie duringe her lief a xx^s by the yere for her Dowrie of my ffree-lands, to be paide of my heires that shall enioye my saide ffree-lands. Also I geue and bequethe to the same Alice my

wief, to be good to the pore children beforenamed xx^s Also I geue bequethe to Richard Collard the sonne of my Dawghter Johane Collard xx^s Also I geue and bequethe to Christopher Norman a heaffer of iij yeres age in the stede of a viij^s w^{ch} he claymeth of me. Also I geue and bequethe to Agnes Norman a xx^s. Moreou' I will that my executors do delu' unto David yae or to John yae when they or anie of them shall, chance to enter into the farme of Okehampton, all my plowghe stuff, that is to saie my beste waine wth the wheles bownde wth yron, and the worste butt wth the wheales likewise bownd wth yron, and all my pte (part) of Ropes, yokes, sooles, and all other man' of instruments for the plowghe. And that if David yae doe die before he be maried that then to leave all the plowghe stuff and all the instrumentss before rehearsed, to John yae his brother. Also I will yt. [that] when David Slocombe and Alice his wief, doe depte this worlde, they to leave to the said David such ymploym^{ts} as hereafter foloweth, Twoe Vates, ij coffers, ij chaires, a cobbard and a Tablebord yt. is nowe in the hall, and the barre of Iron in the chymney and parte of the potthangings. And if that David yae depte this worlde before he be married then he to leave it to his brother John yae all the saide Imployments. ffarthermore I will that David Slocombe and his wief have the kepinge of the said John and David yae vntill they be of a suffyciente age. Mou' I constitute ordaine and make my ou'seers John Benett, John Kinge, Thomas Collard, and Christopher Howell, to see this my last will in eu'ie condition well and trulie performed, and they to have eu'ie of them for their labour and paines a iij^s iiij^d The resydue of all my goodes and cattalls not bequethed, my debts, bequests, and fun'all trulie contented and paide, I geue and bequethe to David Slocombe and Alice his wief whome I make my executors, to dispose them for the wealth of my soule as they shall seme best. To this witnesseth Thomas Collard, John Kinge, John Benett, and Xpofer Howell, wth Dyu's others."

"Proved 27 ffeb. Ao. Dni 1549."

There is a freehold estate in the parish of Wiveliscombe still belonging to the representatives of the Yea family called Yea's, and it was probably to this identical estate that Richard Yea refers to in his will as "my freelands." He likewise makes use of the expression, it will be seen, "shall chance to enter into the farme of Okehampton." In respect of the Manor of Oakhampton, in the parish of Wiveliscombe, the Yea family were lessees under the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the reversion to which for life having been apparently acquired by either Richard Yea or his father in the year 1500.

It will be observed there is no reference to a horse of any kind in either of these wills; neither is there in that of John Sydenham, Esq., who made his will at Dulverton, on the 29th of June, 1558. William Norton, a native of Hillfarrence, who made his will at Nynhead, 28th May, 1542, however, gives to his daughter Agnes his "grey amblyn mare," after the death of his wife. Nicholas Gale, of Creech—will dated 28th day of July, 1547—makes specific bequests to his children of a "yonge mare with her colt" and "a mare colt." The ox was chiefly used instead of the horse for the ordinary purposes of husbandry in West Somerset until within, comparatively speaking, a recent period.

It will be noticed that rye is the only corn mentioned; this corn, and not wheat as now, was the staple consumption for bread making.

Notes on the History of Dulverton.

BY E. GREEN (*Hon. Sec.*)

BUT a few years ago the history of any parish would have commenced with some extract from *Domesday* book, now, thanks to one, alas! lately departed from us, two years earlier can be included, and much new matter gained. Still all is rather complex, and future workers may yet find room for their investigations. In the Gheld Inquest then, taken in 1084, Dulvertona is found as part of Williton Hundred, and, with Netelcoma and Uinnesforda, was rated at six hides, one virgate and one fertin, the dues on which were in arrear. The *Domesday* measurement is about a third more. But although Dulverton is here found already in Williton, it for a time, it would seem, gave the name to the Hundred. It here included Potesdona (Pixton), Holma (Hollam), and certain lands owned by thirteen Taini, the value, £3. 4s. 2d., making up the *Domesday* measurement of 8,337 acres, held by the King *in capite*. Before the Conquest it was owned by Earl Harold, who received a rent from Brigeford, from the Earl of Moretain, of twenty-four sheep; a custom, says the Inquest, "now discontinued." The rental was eleven pounds ten shillings, paid in white money.

Within the manor was a still uncertain holding of one virgate of land, called Widepolla, the same spelling as for Withypool, held by Robert de Odburvilla, formerly owned by one Dodo in the time of King Eadward. D'Auberville, as the name next becomes, and Dodo, were both King's foresters, but D'Auberville, by a suit at law, managed to secure the property, and then to separate it from Dulverton, holding it by what was considered the more honourable tenure, by service, instead of, as before, by a money rent. Mr. Eyton, in his *Domesday Studies of Somerset*,

suggests that this property was Hawkridge, a parish or manor not mentioned in that book.

At some time in the reign of Henry I, by his gift, the manor also passed to Turberville, as the name became and still is. In 1150, towards the end of that King's reign, Richard de Turberville, with the consent of his brother Hugo, gave the church of Dulverton, and land called Golianda, to the Priory of Taunton,¹ a gift which influenced the after history of the manor.

The next mention, with any certain date, is in 1253, 38 Henry III, when, by arrangement, the manor was sold by Richard de Turberville to Robert de Shete, conditionally however that he, Richard, died without heirs.² In 1255, Robert de Sete again appears, now in an action of *mort d'ancestor*, as defendant against Roger de Reyni, for a carucate of land, with belongings in Dulverton.³

Henry the third, as is well known, spent many years in France, and died there. During this long absence many of his followers must either have died or have been killed, and the Turberville sale, probably a family arrangement, was perhaps in consequence of this possibility. On the death of Henry, and the return to England of Edward I, the royal properties were found neglected, and enquiries consequently ensued. In the *Testa de Nevill* (p. 162a), documents originating either at the end of Henry or beginning of Edward, 1272, Dulverton is found as owned by Hugh de Turberville, held of the King, by the service of making or keeping a ward or guard at Breckinot. It was so held by the gift of King Henry I, the grandfather of King Henry II, the father of John. Hugh seems to have died without immediate heirs, and the Turberville holding ceased. By 1274, 2 Edward I, the manor had passed to an heiress, Hawisia, daughter of Robert de Shete, and so the intention of

(1). *Additional MSS.*, British Museum, 30,283.

(2). *Feet Fines*, 28—40 Hen. III, No. 100.

(3). *Patents*, 39 Hen. III, m. 8, dors.

the sale was completed. In the *Hundred Rolls*, from enquiry made in this year at Langport, Thomas de Pyn was returned as lord of the free manor of Dulverton, and it was declared that he took and restrained all waifs and strays which came on his lands, but by what warrant or ancient custom the jury knew not. Thomas de Pyn came into possession through his wife Hawisia, and in 1278-9, they granted the manor or Hundred of Dulverton, reserving a third the dower of Hawisia, to Alianore the Queen and her heirs,¹ with all rights and services; and then curiously in 1281, the King and Queen re-granted their two-thirds, at a rental of one penny, payable at Easter, to the said Thomas and Hawisia, for their lives or the longer liver of them, afterwards to revert to the King.² Thomas pre-deceased Hawisia, and she then married Nicholas de Boneville. By the inquisition taken after his death, it was found that Hawisia had married him for her second husband, and that he held the manor of Dulverton with her, under John, son and heir of John de Bello Campo (Beauchamp), Baron of Hache, who at the time was a minor in the King's charge,—*i.e.*, a ward of Court—who held it of the King in chief; and that the said Hawisia, with Thomas de Pyn, her first husband, had been enfeoffed by the King, and that she was still so seised after the death of her second husband, and after her death it would go to the King. It was further declared that Hawisia held the manor of Shete, in Devon, by heirship, in free socage, of Thomas de Sandford; and the manor of Combe and half the manor of Lydeard Punchardon. Nicholas Boneville, her son, aged nearly two years, was next heir.³

In time Hawisia died also, and by the inquisition taken at Dulverton in 1331, these transactions are more clearly stated. It was then found that Hawisia Pyn, as she was called, held

(1). *Close Rolls*, 7 Edward I, m. 3 dors., extra skin.

(2). *Feet Fines*, 1—20 Edward I, No. 58.

(3). *Escheators Inquisitions*, 23 Edward I, No. 73. *Inq. Post Mortem*, 23 Edward I, No. 44. *Close Roll*, 23 Edward I, m. 8.

for her life, the day she died, two parts of the manor of Dulverton by concession of Edward, formerly King of England, grandfather of the then King, which two parts were held of Emericus de Pauncefoot, as of the Honor of Kyrkehowel, by the service of a third part of a knight's fee; and that Thomas and Hawisia had conceded the said two parts to the King for a sum of money, and the King had again conceded them to the said Thomas and Hawisia for their lives. The said two parts were worth seventy-three shillings and fourpence; there were two hundred acres of hill land, of which some forty acres could be sown with oats, worth three halfpence per acre, and the remaining one hundred and sixty acres were worth nothing. Other acres of meadow were worth twelve pence, and two parts of a water mill were worth ten shillings. There were also customary and free rents and perquisites of Court. These two parts now passed to the Crown. Hawisia also held in her own demesne in fee the other third part of the manor, also of the Honor of Kirkhowel, by the service of a third part of a knight's fee. The value was fifteen shillings and sixpence, with a hundred acres of hill land, of which twenty acres could be sown with oats, worth three halfpence per acre, and the remaining eighty acres were worth nothing, being in common. There were two acres of meadow, at twelve pence each, a third of a mill, worth five shillings, and free rents, etc., payable at Michaelmas; and Nicholas de Bolevyle (*sic*) was declared the next heir, then aged thirty years or more. As Nicolas de Boneville, his father, died in 1295, the 'more' here must have been five or six years.¹

As the property was granted to Pyn, Hawisia, for property purposes, retained that name, her other marriages being ignored; for as shown below, she married a third husband, one William de Lughteburgh, who in turn held these lands with her during and for her life. It was this William who received the first grant of a Market and Fair at Dulverton. By this grant

(1). *Inq. P. M.*, 4 Edward III, No. 25, 1st nos.

made in 1306, 34 Edward I, the King gave and confirmed to William de Lughteburgh and Hawisia his wife, for the life of the said Hawisia, that he might have a market every Thursday at his manor of Dulverton, and a fair every year for three days—the vigil, the day, and the morrow of All Saints, unless such market and fair should interfere with neighbouring markets and fairs. Dated at Lanercost, Cumberland, 16th Oct.¹

The King's two-thirds were next granted to William de Montacute, Earl of Sarum, but the deed does not seem to have been enrolled. William held them but a short time, as in 1336 they passed by his gift to the Priory of Taunton. The Prior took care to have his deed enrolled, and further, that the King, by *inspeximus*, at the same time declared that he had seen the indenture by which the Earl of Sarum so gave and granted the "Hundred and Manor of Dulverton," at an annual fee farm rent of £10, payable at Easter and Michaelmas: the transaction was thus confirmed at Westminster, on the 21st March.² The Earl was not allowed even to retain his annual rent, as in 1337, the next year, he granted it to the Priory of Butlesham, in Berks; for all purposes the same as a grant direct to Taunton.

Nicholas de Bonevill, too, did not manage to hold his mother's third part long, as by an enquiry made at Lawrence Lydeard, 12th April, 1340, it was declared that he had given and assigned it to the Priory of Taunton, and that the Priory held it of William de Montacute. The Prior at the same time made his peace with the King, and paid a fine of five marks *ad manum mortuum habendi*, and for this the King duly confirmed the transaction, 2nd May, 1340.³

With their spiritual masters for their earthly lords, the Dulverton people had now a very poor and uneventful time,

(1). *Charter Rolls*, 34 Ed. I, pt. 1, No. 21.

(2). *Pat.* 2 Ed. III, pt. 1, m. 12.

(3). *Esch.*, 4 Ed. III, vol. ii. p. 38, roll 12. *Inq. P. M.*, 14 Ed. III (2 nos.), 48. *Abbrevatio Rot. Orig.* vol. ii. p. 139. *Pat.*, 14 Ed. III, pt. 1, m. 2.

there being little to record, except the re-establishment of the fair, which had lapsed on the death of Hawisia.

By patent, 12th Nov., 1488, the Prior was empowered to hold at his town of Dulverton two fairs; one on the Feast of St. Peter the Apostle, for all the Feast, and for a day immediately preceding, and a day immediately following it; and another fair on the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude, and for all the same Feast, a day before and a day after it, yearly, with a Court of Pie-powder during the fairs, and all profits and fines, etc., belonging.¹

No further record occurs until the great disgorging in the time of Henry VIII; when the manor passed again to the King. It was then granted to the Earl of Oxford, but for some reason the Earl, in 1553, requested to exchange it for other lands. He stated that it was worth £12. 18s. 8d. per annum, from which should be deducted 2s. 3d., paid to the sheriff, and the Hundred of Freemanors, leaving £12. 16s. 5d. clear.

A more minute statement shows the value in Dulverton Bailiwick, and lands in Whithill and Lucott.

	£	s.	d.
Rent of tenement called Downe	10	0	
„ „ assise and customary rents in Lucott	1	18	8
„ „ called Shamells	2	10	
„ „ certain lands in Dulverton ...	4	0	
„ „ assise and customary in Whithill ...	1	11	0
„ „ „ etc., called Boubyldes ...	1	12	0
Perquisites and casualties and commons ...	9	12	0
	£ 15	10	6

Deduct rent to John Carse, Bailiff of the same, conceded to him for his life by letters patent of 10th June, 30 Henry VIII, as by full exemplification appeared

	4	0	0
Leaving clear ² ...	£ 11	10	6

(1). *Pat.*, 4 Hen. VII, pt. 1, mem. 6 (26 in pencil).

(2). *Particulars for Grants*, 35 Hen. VIII.

By this exchange the manor [passed again to the King, and remained so held by him, and after him by Edward VI, and until 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, 1556, when it was granted, with Thurloxtou, for the sum of £1,230. 5s., duly paid, to William Babington, a gentleman of the Privy Chamber, with all courts, liberties, etc., and all the woods known as Marshwood, Alchutwood, and Wareclywood, and the advowson of Thurloxtou, and all privileges in Dulverton, Pixton, Combe, and Thurloxtou, "in the hands of our dear father, Henry VIII, and after him of our dear brother, Edward VI." The clear annual value was now declared £87. 10s., held by the service of the thirtieth part of a knight's fee. In 1568, Babington sold it to John Sydenham, and by the final concord between them, as duly registered in the Court of Sir James Dyer, it was declared to consist of eighty messuages, twenty cottages, twenty tofts, six mills, six dovecotes, eighty gardens, thirty orchards, two thousand acres of land, one hundred acres of meadow, two hundred acres of pasture, three hundred acres of wood, two hundred acres of gorse and heath, one hundred acres of woodland, and a hundred shillings rent in Dulverton, Pyxton, and Combe. As usual at this time, all sales of land were proclaimed in the market-place, and this one was so announced on the 1st, 4th, 26th, and 28th Nov.; the 6th, 7th, 10th, and 12th Feb., 1569; the 22nd March; the 25th, 28th, and 31st May; the 10th June; the 2nd, 5th, and 7th July, 1570.¹

After the dissolution of the Priory, and the consequent disappearance of the Prior to whom it had been granted, the market again lapsed. In 1555 a new grant was made. This sets out that "the town and borough of Dulverton, in our county of Somerset, is very populous, and in decay, and the poor inhabitants now in great want, as is related to us by several of the said town, who for the amending and reparacion of the same humbly supplicate us by our gracious liberality for the amelioration of the town and relief of the poor. Know

(1). *Pedes Finium*, Mich., 9-10 Elizabeth, No. 22.

that by our special grace we concede to John Sydenham, Esq., John Toute, John Casse, Roger Chilcote, Robt. Vens, Robt. Catford, John Capper, William Howcombe, Nich. Trott, and Robt. Westerne, and others, inhabitants of the said town, their heirs and assigns, that they may have and hold, etc., a market every Saturday, all day, for the sale of cattle and other things; and that they may also hold two fairs each year,—the first in the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude, all the day of the said Feast, and the other fair annually in the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, for all the day of the said Feast, annually. They were also to hold all the stallage, tolls, and profits of the said fairs and markets, with a Court of Pie-powder and its emoluments, and dispose of them for the good of the inhabitants. When all but two of those named were dead, the remaining two were empowered to give over the management to ten others, the “most discreet and honest inhabitants,” for the same purposes and intentions; and so again, when but two of them remained, they were to do the like.¹

The opposition party to the Reformation, active, but foiled, during the long reign of Elizabeth, had some encouragement in the time of her successor; and through the influence brought to bear on the education, and especially the marriage, of his son Charles, a still wider chance for interference offered. The result was the great quarrel, the Civil War. Preceding the actual commencement of hostilities, the Parliament, in May, 1641, drew up a Protestation, which the Members first signed, and then ordered to be printed and sent down into all parishes, with an intimation with “what willingness the House had made it, and as they justify their taking it themselves, so they cannot but approve it in them that shall do likewise.” It was declared to be a “shibboleth” to discover every true Israelite; and any man not signing it was to be considered unfit for any office. The returns, made by the Constables of Hundreds, are chiefly dated February and March, 1642.

(1). *Pat.*, 2-3 Philip and Mary, pt. 1, m. 8 (29).

The Protestation was that, "I, A. B., do promise and vow to maintain and defend, as far as lawfully I may with my Life, Power, and Estate, the true Reformed Protestant Religion, expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England, against all Popery and Popish Innovations and as far as lawfully I may, I will oppose and endeavour to bring to condign punishment all such as shall do anything to the contrary . . . and neither for hope, fear, nor other respect to relinquish this Promise, Vow, and Protestation."

The Dulverton return was signed by two hundred and twenty-six inhabitants, being over eighteen years old, including John Sydenham, Esq., Thomas White, minister, and Henry Sydenham. The document concludes with the note that Ames Upham "came not upon warning;" a little omission which probably did not make Dulverton the more comfortable for him.

During the war, 1642-1649, the affairs of the Parliament in the various counties were managed by committees of gentlemen nominated for the purpose, necessarily those who were strongly on the right side. The losing party was duly mulcted, or his property sequestered, from time to time, by the winning one. Thus:—"Att the Standing Committee for the County of Somerset, at Ivelchester this 11th of June 1646;" it was:—"Ordered that the Sequestrators of the Hundred of Williton and Free Manors doe forthwith seize, sequester and dispose of for the best advantage of the State all the estate reall and personall of Capt. Trowbridge, Capt. Wm. Drikes, and Dr. John Byam, clearke."

"Ri. Treuillian,	Edwd. Ceely,
Thos. English,	He. Mintern,
John Pyne,	Fr. Henley."
Nich. Sands,	

Again, on 18 March, 1647, from Ilminster it was ordered that John Byam, of Clatworthy, being sequestered for delinquency, be forthwith removed from his parsonage house at Clatworthy.

All Constables and Tithing men of Clatworthy, and all others to be assisting.

“ Ri. Trevillian, John Pyne,
Edw. Ceely, Matthew Clift.”

That this was done was certified from Elworthy 5 Feb. 1651:—“ These are to certify that Jno. Byam of Clatworthy was duly sequestered according to the Order. I say that he was sequestered by me. Henry Wipple, Sequestratour.”

It is clear that Byam was not more in accord with his parishioners at Dulverton, but Dulverton could not be touched, as the ownership had passed to others, the result being a struggle in which Byam was the victor. In December, 1651, Dulverton sent up a petition to the Commissioners for Compounding, dated 17th December, setting out that the parsonage of Dulverton had been granted to Byam for three lives, all living; that it was liable to sequestration, but Byam had prevented it by a sale to Thos. Balsh, since dead, but who often said, as by the oaths of several inhabitants can be proved, that he had no interest in the said parsonage, notwithstanding his pretended lease, but that he received the profits only as a servant to Byam. Since Balsh's death the pretended right was claimed by Thos. Pippen, who being questioned about the lease had a month given him to prove his title, then on his desire two months more, so extended to nine months; “ yet in all this time he had not proved the same, and only seeks delay.” “ Most humbly therefore pray that an order be made forthwith to sequester the said parsonage.”¹

“ Henry Seymour. Aldred Crewes.”

Byam was ordered to show cause within fourteen days, and thus sent in his reply:—“ To give you satisfaction touching the petition of some few parishioners of Dulverton, and the implacable hatred of these informers for sixteen years and more, through my opposing their pretended customs and overthrowing them in Chancery and Common Law when I was

(1). *Royalist Composition Papers*, 1st series, vol. xxi, fol. 317.

vicar there, and the joining of one Henry Seamour now vicar there; the said Balsh had a real lease by advice of counsel learned in the law, bearing date 1639, which he conveyed, being doubtful of his life, unto his brother-in-law (Peppin) after holding it about eight years."

"And I beseech your Honres not to finde fault with my answer for want of form, for I am a poor man and cannot pay a counsellor or advocate, but I know how to set forth the truth in plain words, which I doubt not but you will favourably receive."

In a second answer, dated 28th January, 1651, as the Humble petition of John Byam of Clatworthy, clerk, he declares "that he never adhered to, or in any way assisted, against the Parliament; and besides, for a valuable consideration, in 1649, he conveyed away the parsonage of Dulverton to Thos. Balsh, who sold the same to Thos. Pippin; and of this he is ready to make oath to the Committee of the County, but being aged seventy years is not able to travel. Prays therefore that the purchasers may quietly enjoy the parsonage and petitioner be dismissed from further trouble."

This is underwritten:—"Petitioner to be discharged if the County Committee say nothing against it, as nobody appears to make good the allegations against him."

It will be observed that Byam made a clerical error here in the date 1649 for 1639, and this was at once detected at Dulverton, from whence was sent up another petition, asserting that the parsonage was kept by fraudulent means from sequestration, and that "since the order was made Byam hath showed no cause more than his petition, put in to make longer delays, being as full of falsehoods as words, as by the original order for sequestration of June, 1646, doth appear. And whereas he saith that he conveyed the lease in 1649, this we know to be not less false than the rest, for to our knowledge Balsh was buried the 23rd July, 1648. Henry Seymour. Aldred Cruse."

The Commissioners considered the matter, and then finally

ruled "that Byam had filed his answer according to their order of 17th December, and not any person appearing to make good what was alleged the petition be discharged, and the purchasers allowed to enjoy the vicarage without interruption, if the County Committee say nothing against it."

Judgment being thus given, nothing more could be done.

There appears to have been only one other owner in Dulverton who had been in opposition to the Parliament.

Henry Sydenham was called upon to settle for his delinquency, and was charged "that he was in arms against the Parliament, in the garrison of Exeter;"¹ but being there at the time of the surrender, was entitled to the benefit of the Articles. By these articles it was conceded that all compositions should be moderate, and not exceed two years' value of real estate. Personal estate was to be charged according to the ordinary rule, but not to exceed two years value.

Henry Sydenham petitioned to be admitted to composition, acknowledging that he had been in arms as charged, but had since taken the Covenant and the Negative Oath before the minister of "John Zacharies," and compounded upon particulars of his estate as delivered under his hand. As he was the son of the owner of Dulverton, his property was personal only. It was declared worth two hundred pounds, viz:—

Household goods, furniture, bedding, linen,	£	s.	d.
pewter, and brass, with other necessities,	65	10	0
Mares, colts, sheep, oxen, and cows	48	0	0
Owing to him by Thos. Tyttesly and Fras.			
Brooks	86	10	0
...			
...			
...			
...			
	£200	0	0

Upon this sum he was fined one-tenth, viz., £20. He then received a pass, signed by John Bampfylde and John Pyne, permitting him to go to Dulverton without molestation, and

(1). *R. C. P.*, 1st series, vol. xliii, fol. 303.

certifying that he had taken the Covenant, and was obedient to the Parliament.

The fact that the father, whatever his opinions may have been, either from age or some other reason, had avoided offence, saved the manor from sequestration or forfeiture, and so the property remained in the family until a recent date.

Although the manor did not come to them until as herein recorded, the Sydenhams had long held lands in Dulverton. In 1366, 40 Edward III, a concord was made with Michel de Sydenham for half a messuage, a carucate of land, eighty acres of wood, and a hundred acres of pasture in Dulverton, and these were duly warranted on payment of a hundred marks in silver.¹

Dulverton, as a border manor of the Forest of Exmoor, is often mentioned in the perambulation accounts. The subject, a difficult one, may well be treated separately. In 1257, 42 Henry III, Wm. Herelwyne and others killed a stag in the woods of Hawkrigge, but William "was not taken, for he could not be found." An enquiry followed, which produced no result, whereupon the price of the stag was charged on four villages near: Hawkrigge paid 4s.; Dulverton, 5s.; Wynsford, half a mark; and Withypool, 4s. In 1269, Wm. de Regny de la Hele and others, with bows and arrows killed a large hind (*bissam*) in the woods of Dulverton. John, too, did not appear, so the sheriff was ordered to distrain at his house, and produce him when wanted. In 1365, Robert Coram killed a stag in Dulverton, and was found hunting foxes in the forest; and Roger Dikelane and Walter Cromer killed a calf (*boviculum*) and a stag. Hugh Sydenham was on the jury in this case, as also in another in 1367, when James Dandeloe took a stag, and John Sully, Kt., took a stagard and a hind (*bissam*) in Easter week.²

It does not fall to the lot of every parish to furnish much

(1). *Feet Pines*, 39-51 Edward III, No. 38.

(2). *Placita Forestæ, Inquisitions*, Nos. 16, 17.

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material for history, but there are always, besides these details relating to property, others to be gathered and considered, relating to the social habits, conditions, thoughts, and environment of the people. There must be some such in existence relating to Dulverton. The Hundred, as a more extended area, or the county perhaps, would form the better basis for this subject; yet every parish should be able to furnish some document, and this being preserved and recorded, would some day aid in forming the ground work for an essay. Space, too, here hardly ever permits more than a detail of facts; much must be left to the imagination or general knowledge of the reader to fill in. Facts, however, if dry, are always better history than the strongest or most vivid picture; word-painting, which too often, for the sake of popularity or a well-turned sentence, is either consciously or unconsciously untrue.

Extracts from a Manuscript belonging to the Parish of Morebath, Devon.

BY REV. SACKVILLE H. BERKELEY.

BELONGING to the parish of Morebath there is a MS., ostensibly a record of church expenses; it is on paper, foolscap size, and has been rudely bound, but is now in detached batches of folios, mixed together in no regular sequence. By far the greater part of it is in very fair preservation, and quite legible: the writing is "Court" hand.

Its great interest consists in—

- (a) Its period—1520—to end of century.
- (b) Its having been written for some 50 years by one hand.
- (c) Its quaint illustrations of the religious, civil, and social life of the time, by means of
- (d) Its many by-records and allusions, not immediately connected with its ostensible purpose.

The following extracts, some in facsimile spelling, others in modernised spelling, are mere samples, which might be greatly multiplied, especially in respect of illustrations of the various changes in the matter of worship, church equipment, vestments, etc., that prevailed in the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII, and in the reigns of Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth.

1520. Orate pro animabus sequentibus.

NOTA BENE.

Me^m Y^t here after schall y^e see and knoo how y^s church

was p'vayled by y^e dethe of all those psons; y^t here after ys exp'ssyd by name; y^e wyche all and synguler gefts was gewyn and bequeuyd unto ys Churche, syn y Sir Xofer Trychay was made vicar here; y^e wyche was an^o d^m 1520 et 30 die mensis Augusti et in eo an^o dextera d^m exaltavit me: cujus animæ propicietur Deus, amen, orate.

[Then follows the list of gifts, from which the examples below are selected; the spelling being modernised.]

1523.

Margaret Lake gave to this Church in wax 5s. I^t She gave again a Altar cloth to S^t Sidwell's Altar, and a basin of Latyn to set light on afore S^t Sidwell; price of all 2s.

1529.

Thomas Tricky of Culmstock gave unto the store of John, and to the store of S^t Sidwell, a swarm of bees, to maintain a taper before them, the which bees resteth now in John Morse's keeping at the Half Moon, and John Morse shall find the butts.

1529.

Eleanor Nicholl gave to the store of John a little silver cross parcel gilt, of value 4d.

She gave again to the store of S^t Sidwell her wedding ring in value 8d., the which ring did help make S^t Sidwell's shoes.

[The list includes gifts to the stores of—S^t George, our Lady, S^t John, S^t Sidwell, and S^t Anthony.]

1529.

Keziah Timewell bequeathed her best gown to help to buy a new image of our Lady, for the which gown was received 4s.

1531.

I^t Of the bequest of Catherine Robins a pair of beads

of curryll [coral] double gawded with amber of 15, set with a (*sic*) 11 silver paternosters, and a ring like a hoop, the which beads must hang upon the new image of our Lady every high day, by her mind.

[The following are entries in the ordinary accounts.]

1531.

It To Thomas Glass for a full payment of his Five pounds for our Lady I have paid him twenty shillings, as now we be at a clear point with him that he shall make us a new George and a new horse to our dragon to his own proper cost and charge, and we to fetch our patent where we will, and for the making of these he shall have our George again and 13s. 4d. of money, and if he do well his part he shall have of us 15s. when it is done and set up.

PETER'S PENCE. Peter his penny is thus gathered.

Thus Peter his penny is gathered, as thus, every householder doth pay öb. [$\frac{1}{2}$ d.] and every cotter doth pay qđrans [$\frac{1}{4}$ d.] and in this parish there be five cotters dwellings and no more, that is Harry Hurley and William Sceley and Lewis Trickey, John Nickoll and John Don, and all other be place holders. now if there be a dweller at Brokholle the sum of this aforesaid gathering is $15\frac{1}{4}$ d., and if there be no dweller at Brokholle, the sum is $14\frac{3}{4}$ d., whereof there is paid at the visitation $13\frac{1}{2}$ d., and sic restat for the gathering $1\frac{3}{4}$ d., if Brokhole do pay and if Brokhole do not pay there resteth but $1\frac{1}{4}$ d.

[The following is the heading of a page of "our Lady's" account.]

Adsit nobis pia nunc sancta virgo maria.

[Mem^m There were stores of Sheep, at these (foregoing) dates, belonging to our Lady, S^t Sydwell, S^t Anthony; and perhaps more. These sheep were held by various men in trust,

and an account rendered of them yearly; with reference to which may be quoted the following.]

NOTE.

Sent

Sydwyll	Sent Sydwyll ys scheppe have a nevyll
ys scheppe	apon y ^e furder ere and ob apon y ^e same.
ys merk.	

[And again.]

NOTA BENE.

M^{dun} that y^e scheppe of y^e store of John ys full in our laydy merke: and to y^t they have agayne a ob a pon y^e nere ere in seculum seculi, a^{mē}.

1534. [There are two or three records like the following.]

NOTE.—y^e stelyng of y^e chalys of y^s Church: y^t was y^eere of owr lorde 1534.

M^{dun} y^t yn y^s forsayd ere y^e xx day of November - hoc esset (*sic*) in festo Sancti edmundi Regis and Martiris y^e wyche was a pon a fryday and bytwyxt y^t fryday and y^e Saterdag a theff w^t a ladder gat up a pon y^s church and pullyd up y^e ladder after hem and sett y^e ladder to y^e tower wyndow and bryck uppe y^t windoo and so gate yn to y^e bells. and fro y^e bells came a downe yn to y^e church and w^t a fyre box strake fyre and to proffe y^s he lefth hys yre y^t he strake fyre w^t all by hynd hem: and was fownd: and then bruke oppe y^e stok coffer: and y^e wother grett coffer: and tok a way y^e challis y^t was yn y^e stok and sent Sydwyll ys schow of sylver and no nother thyng: and so gat owt to y^e quire dore: and pullyd y^e quyre dore after hem: So a pon y^s y^e yong men and maydyns of y^s parysse dru them selffe to gethers and w^t there gefts and provysyon the bofth yn a nother challis w^t owt ony chargis of y^e parysse: as hyt ys here after expressed and schowyd by a cownt: bothe of y^e valure of y^e challis and also of y^e gefts.

[Then follow the names and contributions—81 in number—the total amount collected being 30s. and a ½d.]

[There are many interesting entries about vestments, etc., in the time of Edward VI and Mary.]

[Here is a curious entry, the spelling modernised.]

NOTE, that we received by the death of Johanna Rumbelow, widow, to a new image of our lady, the which image was her executor with us wardens: as is expressed before upon her testament—summa xix^s by her death.

[The will and inventory of goods, with prices, are given.]

[In 1538 are entries—]

It for y^e churche boke callyd y^e bybyll, xiii^s and iiij^d

It for y^e boke of y^e new testment in iglis and yn latyn, iij^s

It for a boke to wrytt there namys yn y^t be cristenyd or weddyd or buryed a cording to y^e Kynggs injuncons, xij^d

[There are also entries about this time of tiles, brought from Barlynche, spelt “barlye,” and also of a window, stone work, iron gear, and all.]

[Here is an entry at present unexplained.]

The contents of the bill for buying of the clappers.

This bill was made 27 day of June in the 5 year of our sovereign lord Edward the 6, by the grace of God of England France and Ireland King, defender of the faith, and of the church of England and Ireland in earth the supreme head: Witnessed that we John Courtney Esquire and Edward Ford gentleman have received of John Norman and Thomas Myll and Edward Rumbelow, 26s 8d, for the bell clappers of Morebath, with the whole furniture appertaining unto the said bells, to the use of Sir Arthur Champernon, Knight, and John Chechester, Esquire, to them given by the King's majesty his letters patent: in witness whereof we have subscribed our name the day and the year above written;

By me, John Courtney.

By me, Edward Ford.

We gave Rumbelow x^s in the buying of them for his father-in-law's sake.

[There is mention also of an apparently unknown saint.]
1538.

Moreover hereafter followeth y^e Count of the store of Sent
Sonday, ye which John Norman at Court is yearly
warden of:

PRIMO—RECEIPTS.

Mem^m, that this last year then rested in John Norman's
hands, xxiiij^d

And to this he hath received for the wool of this year of
this foresaid store, j^s and iiij^d

Also he received again for his ewe and her lamb of this
year, and for a ram hog that came from Robt. at Hayne,
and for Robt. at Hayne his ewes lamb of this year, for all
these iiij he received, iij^s and iiij^d

Also John Norman hath in his keeping as yet, A ewe hog,
and a ewe that came from Robt. at Hayne, and as for
John at Court's ewe and her lamb, was sold—ut predixi—
Richard Norman hath a wether in his keeping.

Thomas Borrage a wether is gone I wyne (ween)

Robt. at Hayne's ewe is delivered to John at Court, and
her lamb and the ram hog was sold ut predictum est.

Summa totalis Rec: is vere, vij^s and vij^d

unde, he asketh allowance as hereafter foloweth pro expenses.

PRIMO.

It for iiij schepyn lesse [? sheep lost], xij^d

It for wax and wick and making for the whole year, vj^d

Summa xviiij. This cost allowed then resteth still in John
Norman's ward clear, (one of the iiij men), vj^s and j^d ann.
et die preedic, and for this money the iiij men shall count
hereafter, and our lady warden shall count for these sheep
and all other sheep concerning the church in future.

NOTE.—let all the Church sheep in future be put in our
lady mark full, what store so ever they be of.

[A RETROSPECTIVE SUMMARY.]

Anno dom. 1548 was high warden of this Church Lucy

Scely: And by her time the church goods was sold away without commission (ut patet postea) and no gifts given to the church, but all fro the church.

1553.

And thus it continued fro Lucy's time unto Richard Cruce: And fro Cruce unto Richard Hucley: And fro Hucley unto Richard Robyns: And fro Robyns unto Robyn at More: And by all these men's time the which was by the time of King Edward the vj, the church ever decayed: And then died the King: and queen mary's grace did succeed: and how the church was restored again by her time, here after this ye shall have knowledge of it: and in this last year of the King: and in the first year of the Queen was Lewis Trickay high warden.

1549. VESTMENTS AND COPES.

Mem^m that in eodem die there rested with John Norman at Court a Suit of black vestments of Fustain naps, and a cope concerning the same, q^d. iterum deliveravit ecclesiæ.

W^m at Comb habet the suit of white vestments.

Nicolus at Hayne habet the vestment of red velvet and the altar cloth of red satin.

Thomas Rumbelow habet the Lent vestments of blue.

I^t the cope of red velvet and the cope of blue satin restant nunc in ecclesiâ.

John Norman at pool habet the streamer and the banner rolled in a altar cloth, and the blue vestments restant nunc in ecclesiâ.

Will^m Hurley habet the black pall of satin.

1552. NOTA BENE.

That in anno predicto John at Court, Will^m at Co^me, John at Borston and Lewis Trickay, did deliver unto M^r Gawyn Carow at Exeter and to Antony Harny and M^r Hache, a cope of blue satin, another cope of red velvet with splede egylls of gold, a blue velvet tunicle with splede egylls, a silken tunicle of blue with brones (*sic*) of

gold, a pax of silver of iiij ounces and half parcel gilt and the paten of the less chalice of ij ounces and half, and this was all the church goods that they had in anno predicto.

[A heading of the annual account in 1554, in original spelling.]

1554.

The cownte of Jone morsse wydow, and Thomas at Tyme-well beyng hye wardyngs of y^e goodds and y^e catyll of Sent iorge of morebath yn y^e yere of owr lord god 1554; and yn y^e furste yere of y^e Rayne of kyng Phelyppe ys mageste; and in y^e secund yere of ye Rayne of quyne marys grace; kyng and quyne of ynglonde, fransse, napylls, jurusalem, and yerlonde, defenders of y^e fayrthe, prynces of spayne and cecill, archduke of austria, duke of melion, burgoine and brabande, cownteyes of hospurch, flawnders, and tyroll; madyn y^e Sonday a pon alhallow day.

[There are at least three instances of a woman being "high-warden."]

[There are many regularly recurring entries of church ales; as:

It we made freely of our church ale all cost quit,—iiij marks v^s and j^d

[There was a great controversy about the payment of the clerk, the account of the squabble occupying four closely-written pages.]

NOTE,—y^e clerkescheppe of morebath.

[Spelling modernised].

Mem^m, that anno Do^m 1531 at Michaelmas, Sir Christopher Trickay that time being Vicar here, and this parish they could not agree for a clerk, by cause the clerk could not have his duty, therefore the Vicar at that time would find them no clerk no longer, where upon the Vicar and this Parish did so agree that the order of the clerkship was put unto the Vicar

and to v men chosen by the Parish, and as these v men and the Vicar could agree upon the clerkship, so the Parish would be contented to perform the same, so upon this at last the Vicar and these v men were thus agreed; that fro thence forth for the love of god and to increase the more love in his parishioners, the Vicar was contented to find them a clerk as he had done before, and the clerk should be charged with nothing, but to keep one challice and the key of the Church door as he will keep his own, thus were we agreed.

Item, moreover again; these v men did thus agree; that fro thence forth when service is done, within half an hour after the clerk, or one for him shall knock the church dore, and if there be any persons within the church when he doth knock, and if they will not come forth then by and by, but they will tarry still within the church, whereupon at last peradventure when they come forth they let stand ope the church door all the night after; and if any such fortune there be whereby the church do take any hurt, the pain and the jeopardy shall rest to them, and not to the clerk, that do remain in the church afterward the clerk hath knocked the church door.

Moreover again, we were thus agreed; that fro thence forth the clerk shall have j^d a quarter of every householder.

Item, again we were thus agreed; that the clerk here after this shall have his hire meat at easter of every householder when he doth inquire for it.

Item, again we be thus agreed; that fro thence forth the clerk shall have a stitch of clean corn of every householder, and for lack of clean corn to pay one stitch of such as he hath, and if he have no corn then shall he pay iiij^d yearly for his stitch; and a cotter ij^d and no more.

Moreover again, because business hath been often times in payment of this stitch in times past, therefore now we be thus agreed, that fro thence forth when the clerk doth send for his stitch he shall have him, and if he be cut, and if the clerk be

not served when he doth come for his stitch, the owner of that corn shall keep the clerk his stitch safe till the clerk do send for him again, and if it be hurted when the clerk doth come for it again, then it shall be to the clerk his pleasure whether he will take the stitch that is set out for him, or else to leave the stitch, and the owner of the corn shall pay him *iiij^d* if rye be above *vij^d* a bushel, and if it be under *vij^d* a bushel he shall pay the clerk *ij^d* for hurting of his stitch, so now upon all these points is the Vicar and these *v* men full agreed; and these *v* men have promised unto the Vicar substantially that they will see the clerk truly paid of all such duties as is expressed before without any trouble or vexation. *anº et die predict.*

These be the *v* mens names—William Tymewell at wood, Richard Raw, John Norman at Court, Richard Hucley, and Thomas Norman.

[The controversy arose again five years afterwards, and another award was made, as follows.]

NOTE, that here followeth a fresh ward upon the clerkship of morebath, maden by Mr John Sydenham and by 3 men of the Parish chosen for the same cause, and by the consent of the whole parish; that was W^m Tymewell at Wood, and John Norman at Court, and Rich^d Hucley.

Mem^m, that Anº Do^m 1536 at Michaelmas time, Will^m ledon would not pay his stitch of corn unto the clerk according to the ward that was made by *v* men of this parish anº do^m 1531 at michaelmas time (as it appeareth upon the book of accounts the same year *ut supra*), and also Will^m Scely and Brochole when they had no corn they would not pay the *iiij^d* for a stitch according to the ward; nother the two cotters at Exbridge did not pay their quarterlage truly unto the clerk, but they *ij* householders at Exbridge paid *ij^d* for their stitch truly eno once a year; both John Don and John Nicholl also, according to the ward of the *v* men, and also according to the

ward of Sir W^m Trystram some time Vicar of Bawnton, and by John Norman at Wood; whereupon now for lack of true payment the Vicar that found the parish a sufficient clerk before that time would not meddle no more with the clerkship, by cause he could not have his duty truly paid without displeasure taken of his parishioners. Wherefore to avoid their displeasure the Vicar warned out the clerk at Christmas following after the date of this present writing, desiring the parish whole to be contented to provide them a new clerk, again our lady at lent then following for he would meddle no more with it. So upon this our lady day being upon palm Sunday was come, and clerk the parish had provided none; whereupon for lack of a clerk again that busy time of Easter, the parish universal desired the Vicar that he would find them a clerk till little Easter day then following upon a better provision; and so did he at their desire. And when that day was come, communication was had and they could not agree about a clerk; whereupon it was put forth at Visitation the thursday following thoo [then] at Uplummon (Where as our authority was granted out at that time; that iiij honest men chosen by the whole parish should rule and govern the parish in all causes concerning the wealth of the church, as it appeareth upon the Count book, an^o predicto, under the official his seal). Upon the which complaint, they were commanded that came at that visitation, (that was the Vicar Sir Christopher Tryckay, and John Norman at court, and harry hurley, warden, and Thomas Rumbelow that spelyd John Swyrth at that time) to go home and take and desire Mr John Sydenham unto them, and all such order as Mr John Sydenham and iiij men of the parish by the whole parish elected do make upon the clerkship, the Vicar and the parish shall be contented withal. Upon this there was a fresh day set of communication to be had, that was in vigiliâ Stⁱ Georgii being upon a Sunday, and so at that day came together Mr John Sydenham and Matthew the Sumner, and asked of every man of the parish by name, whether they would

be contented to choose iiij men of the parish, and all such order as Mr Sydenham and these four men do make upon the clerkship the rest to be contented withal, (now how say ye to this ye parishioners they said). Upon this they said they were contented, whereupon the iiij men were chosen by the whole parish that should see a order taken, with Mr Sydenham's advisement, upon the clerkship (the which iiij men were the same self persons that were chosen afore: and admitted by the ordinary to rule and govern the church goods, as is expressed upon the book of account and under the ordinarys authority); and when these men were all chosen then was the parishioners whole examined again to kown their minds whether they would be contented to bide all such order as Mr John Sydenham and these four men do make or no; and there were xxvj in one part that was contented that Mr Sydenham and these aforesaid iiij men should see an order taken upon the clerkship, and there was v men of the other part that would not be ordered by no man quæ (*sic*) essent Thomas Norman, Ric. Webber, Will^m Norman, and John at Borston. Wherefore at that time they could not agree about a clerk, in so much that we had no clerk tho at evensong following, neither the morrow that was sent jorge his day, for lack whereof the church was homely served that day, in so much that the morrow upon sent jorge his day, when the Vicar should say mass for mark's child at exbridge, tho mark was glad to go to John at Court to fetch the church door key and the challice, and also he fette (*sic*) the old John Waterus to help the Vicar to mass, before he could have any mass said for his child, and all was for lack of a clerk. And when mass was done, we went to Will^m at Tymewells, to the betrothing of margyd Tymewell and Will^m Tayler, and there all that day we reasoned shamefully about our clerkship, in so much that mark and Will^m Leddon were a most by the ears for the same cause, by cause that Will^m Leddon had not brought home his corn before michaelmas, as well as he did the tuesday afore the Visitation (the which was half a bushel of rye and

the last peck by heap). So in conclusion the parish whole concluded there and said let us have a fresh day of communication and we will be ordered every one of us, whereupon they desired the Vicar to find them a clerk again till a fresh day of communication and at the parishioners desire so did he, till the Sunday afore rogation week : and in the mean space M^r Hugh Powlytt kept court at Morebath, and he exhorted these foresaid v persons, and so did M^r Hugh Stycly also, that they should be contented to be ordered as the most part of the parish were, and if they would not he would order them he said : so upon this there was a fresh day set, of communication to be had ; again the which day there was set out a citation to a cite all such persons as would not be ordered by M^r Sydenham and by the iiij men, so in conclusion when the day was come that the matter should be reasoned again, the which was the Sunday afore rogation week as is expressed before, then was the parish singularly demanded again by name to know whether they would be contented that M^r Sydenham and iij of those men elected by the parish should see an order taken in the clerkship or no : (for the iiijth man was sick that time that was Rob^t at Hayne) and they said yea, all that were in the church that time ; and there lacked no more that day but Will^m at Tymewell and Will^m Leddon and Will^m Scely : and by cause that every man was contented to bide the order of M^r John Sydenham and these iij men, the citation that was set was void, so upon this M^r Sydenham and these iij men at the parishioners instance took the matter in hand, and so with M^r Sydenham's advice this was the order that they did make, and so concluded and said ; that fro thence forth this shall be the clerk's duty by our award, to have (whatsoever he hath had afore this) to this intent, to have the more unity and peace among us, and to have this church the better served (thus it is) : primo, he shall have a stitch of clean corn of every house, where as there is corn upon the bargain, (as Brochole and one other more) and he that hath no clean corn shall pay a stitch of oats, and he that

hath no corn shall pay the clerk iiij^d for his stitch, and ij^d a cotter, as it hath been in times past. And under this manner the clerk shall demand his stitch; once he shall come for him and if he be a ready, and if not he shall come again; and then if the stitch be not sufficient, he shall leave him till that some of the persons that made the ward do see the stitch, and then if the stitch be sufficient after their justment then the clerk shall fetch him, and if he be not sufficient then the clerk with out any business shall fetch a stitch with Richard Hucley, (if it be in the west part of the parish), and if it be in the east part of the parish he must fetch his stitch with John Norman at court: for these ij men be surety to the clerk, to see all his duty paid truly unto him that these men have ordered, without any trouble or vexation: and the whole parishioners hath made their answer unto these foresaid ij men, that they will wear them harmless, if any froward fellow will not pay his duty to the clerk according to this award. And also and if the clerk be warned to fetch his stitch and peradventure he can not come for him by and by, then the owner of the ground shall keep him till he come. Also he shall have j^d a quarter of every householder: And the clerk shall have at every wedding ij^d: Also at every corpse present and at every month's end that is sung by note, the clerk shall have ij^d: Also the clerk shall be charged with nothing saving only with one chalice and with the church door key, this for to keep and hide as he will do his own: Also he shall go about the parish with his holy water once a year when men have shorn their sheep, to gather some wool to make him coat to go in the parishioners livery: and here fore the clerk shall help the warden to make up the vestments and to dress the altars, etc. Also this year only for losing of his duty in times past, the parishioners shall help to drink him a cost of ale, the Sunday upon Trinity Sunday (et sic factum esset (*sic*) and ibi essent (*sic*) omnes, duntaxat Borston and Scely: Webber and Will^m norman. Also at every Easter hereafter the clerk shall gather his hire meat, and then the

parish shall help to drink him a cost of ale in the church house. And this is all the ward that Mr John Sydenham, and Will^m Tymewell at Wood, and John Norman at Court, and Richard Hucley, did make upon the Clerkship, an^o et die predicto, before the parishioners, and John Dysse then being bayly there under Mr Hugh Powlytt, and Matthew the Sumner, etc. In witnessing where of this note was made here upon this count book to testify truly the clerk his duty and our award to avoid all other inconvenience.



The Roman House at Whitestaunton.

BY CHARLES I. ELTON, ESQ., M.P., F.S.A.

WHEN the Society did me the honour of visiting Whites-
taunton last year, we were so fortunate as to discover
the remains of a Roman house, situate beside the stream which
rises in the large fishpond and flows down into the valley of the
Yarty. The existence of the ruins of a villa in the immediate
neighbourhood of the stream had long been suspected, owing to
the frequent occurrence on its banks of minute fragments of an
ancient kind of pottery and of stone split into thin sheets and
cut into the shape of roofing tiles. When the course of the
high road was altered, about forty years ago, the ruins of a
little room or chapel, roofed with these slabs and paved with
tesserae of brick, were found standing over a clear spring in the
wood, not far from the stream in question, and within a few
yards of the back north-wall of the house which has now been
discovered. At the time of the Society's visit we had not found
much more than the sandstone pillars which had supported the
flooring over a hot-air chamber, some of the square box-like
flue-pipes which had let the warm air through the walls of the
dwelling-rooms, a quantity of broken tiles, and the foundations
and lower courses of some of the principal walls.

The house was built under a steep hillside facing to the south,
though the windows looking down the valley westwards must
certainly have afforded the finest view. The bath-rooms were
on the western side, and the principal living rooms were arranged
round the *atrium* or covered court at the eastern end. The
centre of the house was occupied by a furnace-room, probably
adjoining the kitchen, and here were the boilers which supplied

water to the warm bath and steam for the vapour-bath, the latter taken in a heated chamber from which the bathers must have passed into a room containing the cold plunge-bath lying further to the east. The hot-room terminates in a semi-circular recess, paved with square red tiles imbedded in concrete, several lines of thicker tiles radiating from the centre of the room towards the curve of the recess, where they reached the wall and formed a support for the *solium*, or bench, where the bathers sat. On the further side of the furnace-room flues, underground passages for hot air, lined with thick tile-work, led at the back to another semi-circular room containing a number of red sandstone blocks, intended apparently to support the fireplace, the doorway, and a seat or projection from the wall; and towards the front to another room adjoining the *atrium*, where a huge slab of much-discoloured sandstone marks the position of another large hearth or fireplace.

One is reminded at this part of the excavations, if we may compare small things with great, of that vivid description of the ruins of the City of Legions, which we find in the '*Welsh Journey*' of Giraldus, where he tells us how Caerleon "was excellently built by the Romans with their walls of brick," and how, even in his day, were to be seen the traces of its former greatness, the giant tower and the palaces "aping the Roman majesty" with their roofs of antique gold; "and the traveller," he adds, "within and without the city finds underground works and pipes and winding passages, and hypocausts contrived with wonderful skill to throw the heat from little hidden flues within the walls."

The *atrium* or inner court, which was probably roofed in against the inclement weather of the "land of clouds and rain," was surrounded by a cloister or gallery, opening at the back upon a large archway, of which the ruins lie in a mass of masonry upon the floor. On the eastern side of the arch there is an alteration of level in the floor of the little cloister, and here there are remains of a step and a doorway, and another slab of

sandstone in the corner, which seems to indicate the position of another stove or fireplace. The cloister was evidently supported on stone pillars, of which two were found lying by the wall at the corners of the court, and another had been displaced and thrown to some distance beyond the outer wall. Owing to the dampness of the soil, which necessitates a tedious course of draining, we have not yet examined much of the flooring of the *atrium* and its surrounding cloister; but enough has been uncovered to show that the passage at least was floored with fine mosaic work, bordered with the pattern called the "double key," the cubes being made of terra cotta, white lias, and the darker stone of the district, so as to afford a variety of colours in the pattern. The pavement of the large room, between the outer wall of the *atrium* and the sloping wall, appears, from the few portions left, to have been of the same fine quality, the sides of the cubes measuring about a quarter of an inch; in the other rooms and passages the pavement was of a rougher and coarser kind. On passing through the opening for the large archway, we came upon three small rooms, paved with concrete, in which a few *tesserae*, about an inch every way in size, are still in position. Some parts of the wall retain pieces of the stucco or plaster, of a red or maroon colour striped with white lines, with which the surface was originally covered; but the dampness of the soil led to the destruction of the greater part of the plaster work, which fell off in an almost fluid condition when the stones were first exposed to the air. Mr. Wright, in his work on *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, has observed a peculiarity of the Roman houses in this country, of which the middle room of the three last mentioned affords a new illustration. "One room," he says, "has always a semi-circular recess or alcove, and there is generally at each side, where it joins the room, an advancing piece of wall or pier, as though a curtain had been drawn across to separate the recess from the room;" and he adds, it has been conjectured that this recess served as the *sacrarium* or place of domestic worship.

There are one or two other points about the building which seem to be worthy of observation. The construction of the arches appears to have been similar to that of the larger archways discovered among the Roman ruins at Bath, the masons having for the sake of lightness used "brick wedge-shaped boxes open on two sides," set in a cement of lime and pounded tiles, and roofed in with a "roll and flat tile," or thin stones cut into an hexagonal shape. The stones of the east wall of the *atrium* are scored over with "diamond-broaching," like the masonry of Hadrian's Wall. The tiles are of all sizes and shapes, some being flanged for roofing or for use in the hot-air flues, others being rounded for the ridges of the roof, which seems to have been made in part of stone flags and in part of the thick slate found at Wiveliscombe. The box-like flue tiles are pierced with square holes, and scored with lines, so as to get a firmer hold on the mortar. In one or two places where the supply of red sandstone pillars had fallen short, some of these flue-tiles were filled with cement, and set up on end to serve as supports for the floor. Several of the tiles show marks of footsteps impressed on them while the clay was wet, the mark in one case showing the nails of a man's boot, and in another the footprint of a large dog. There has not as yet been an opportunity of thoroughly examining the ground, the earth being left for some inches over the greater part of the floor; but some objects of interest have already been found, the list including several coins of the 4th century, part of a bronze brooch, part of a glass bowl, several pieces of fine red Samian ware, a vast quantity of bones, and a number of broken articles of the black, red, and grey pottery which was manufactured in Britain. Between the wall and the stream were found several large pieces of slag from the ancient iron-works carried on in the immediate neighbourhood, and a broken quern or hand-mill made of granite from Dartmoor; and lower down the stream, and hidden under its bank, lay a circular block of red sandstone, shaped like a

Dolbury and Cadbury Camps.¹

BY C. W. DYMOND, F.S.A.

Dolbury.

THE photo-lithographed plan which illustrates this section is reduced from one plotted to a much larger scale from an exact instrumental survey made in the year 1872, and shows all visible features of the works, as well as incidents of the surface. Within my knowledge, only two other plans of this camp have hitherto been published. One of these, lithographed to a small scale, from a survey made in the first third of this century by Mr. Crocker, was inserted by the Rev. W. Phelps in his *History of Somersetshire*. It is inaccurate in several particulars, some of which will appear on a comparison with the accompanying plan. The other, a rude and very small wood-cut, will be found in Rutter's *Delineations of N. W. Somerset*.

The fortified inclosure occupies the western extremity of a spur of Blackdown (a part of the limestone range of Mendip) which, on the southern side, declines, by a very abrupt, and, in some parts, precipitous natural escarpment, to a deep and narrow ravine: on the north, the descent to the open plain, though steep, is less sudden: the western end, 230 feet high, is slowly surmounted by an ancient winding chariot-way from the gorge, through which must have run, as now, one of the principal passes of the hills. Eastward from the main rampart, a narrow plateau extends on a level for about 150 yards, beyond which there is a gentle dip to a wide neck intervening between it and

(1). Condensed from a paper, "Dolbury and Cadbury: Two Somersetshire Camps," by the same author, published in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 1882.

DOLBURY

CAMP

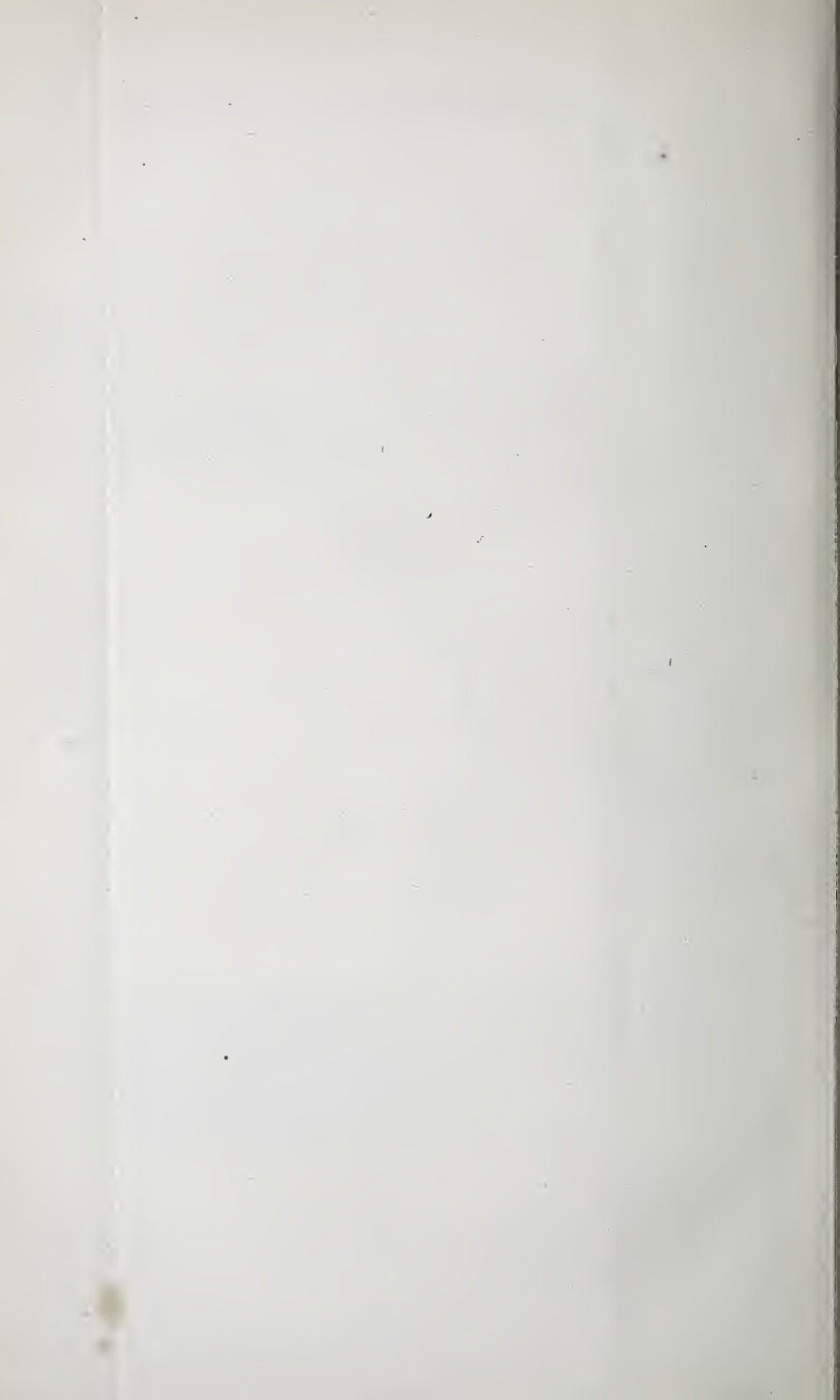
NEAR

SANDFORD, SOMERSET.



Place of Walling at A.

SCALE OF FEET.



the rising back-ground. This plateau is crossed, at the distance of 100 yards from the outer eastern trench of the camp, by a slight doubly-embanked trench, 75 yards in length. Another trench, or ancient hollow-way, may be seen on the northern slope of the hill, commencing behind the gardens of the cottages which flank the lower part of the main approach, bearing somewhat in the direction of the north-eastern corner of the camp, and terminating about half-way up the hill. Such incomplete lines of defence are frequently found in the outskirts of primitive camps. Westward, on the opposite side of the pass, and at a lower level than Dolbury, a small intrenched camp, called Dinhurst, on the edge of an almost precipitous bluff, is its *vis à vis* across the gorge. It remains but to note that the ground inclines with growing steepness from the flat western end of Dolbury to the crest of the ridge at the eastern end; there being a difference of level of about 155 feet between these two points. From this crest, there is an abrupt fall over some rugged rocks toward the eastern half of the northern rampart, behind which it forms a deep trench; while, on the other side, there is a gentler descent to the southern rampart.

It will be seen that the plan of the works approximates to a rectangle; and that the inclosure is embanked on every side. Its greatest interior length and breadth are respectively 1570 feet and 750 feet; and the area of the *enceinte* is 22 acres and a quarter. The southern rampart is not intrenched,—the natural escarpment making such a precaution unnecessary: but on the other three sides, there are both double banks and double trenches. There were probably only two chief entrances,—those at the western end, and at the north-eastern corner. There is now a third entrance near the south-eastern corner; but it is doubtful whether this is of ancient date, as it is shallower than the others, and is neither shown on Crocker's plan, nor mentioned by any of the older writers. It will be noticed that, at two or three points, there are interruptions of the outer northern trench; and it is quite possible that these may indicate the

positions of ancient sally-ports, of which no other trace remains; for the foot-ways, which here and there cross the ramparts, are all modern. The older plans, to which reference has been made, represent a rectangular inclosure, external to the camp, to the south-west of the main entrance, reinforcing, as it were, the defences of the inclined approach. There neither is, nor, evidently, ever was any such outwork. A narrow tongue, with steep flanks, as shown in the plan, forms the western termination of the southern escarpment; but it carries not the slightest trace of any artificial work, for which there would be neither room nor use, as a deep hollow intervenes between it and the approach-road which rounds the opposite shoulder. Within the south-western corner of the camp, at the lowest level in the area, there is a somewhat rectangular shallow hollow, measuring 175 feet by 125 feet, its eastern side, and a portion of the northern one, being formed into a kind of bench or shelf. This has been sometimes, though erroneously, represented as embanked, and regarded as the site of a *prætorium*, or as the remains of an inner camp. The theory that it was a pond for the storage of water for the garrison seems to be the most tenable. If this reservoir should fail, a copious supply could be obtained from streams at the foot of the hill.

On reference to the plan, it will be seen that the uniformity of the inclosed area is broken by seven long mounds. The object for which these were raised has never yet been ascertained. They are of various degrees of relief, and regularity of form, and are, for the most part, surrounded by shallow trenches. While very like some of the long barrows, or those mounds known as "giants' graves," they can also hardly be distinguished from similar objects on other large warrens, raised for rabbits to burrow in; and such might have been thought to be their use here, had not the keeper told me that it was not so, and that these banks were not recent. The Rev. W. Phelps hazards a conjecture, which he seems to mistake for a fact, that "under these long barrows were deposited the remains of some

departed British chieftains." None of these mounds, however, give evidence of having been opened; nor can I find any record of search for interments having been made in them. Mr. Kerslake (*A primæval British Metropolis*, pp. 37 and 99) makes an ingenious guess as to their use, when he regards them as the remains of raised causeways or streets. To this theory it will perhaps suffice to object, that the trenches sometimes surround the ends, as well as flank the sides of these mounds; that some of the latter are too much raised and too round-backed for the supposed purpose; and also that it would be unnecessary to embank the ways on so dry a site. A series of banks, somewhat like these, meeting one another squarely and obliquely, have been observed in Ogbury camp, Wilts.

On farther reference to the plan, it will be seen that fifteen cruciform constructions are laid down at intervals, chiefly along the hollow-ways and trenches within and without the ramparts. These are nothing but modern devices, made within the memory of the keeper, to entrap vermin. The circular wall, and the inclosed portions of a rectangular building, are the ruins of a warrener's lodge that, for many years, occupied this, the highest point in the camp, where, originally, there may have been a beacon. A causeway, doubly-scarped on its northern side, and probably ancient, leads from these ruins to the north-eastern entrance; and, half-way down the rocky breast, there is a narrow ramp (shown in the plan) which may possibly be no more than a natural shelf produced by regular stratification. Above this, occurs a large pit dug, doubtless, in recent times in search of minerals.

The principal feature which differentiates Dolbury from almost every other camp in the district is the structure of portions of its *agger*. In remains of this class, it is commonly a simple embankment composed of stones and earth; and this was probably its primitive form in those works where, either from natural strength of position, or from haste in execution, or from lack of walling-stone, or, possibly, from constructive inep-

titude, a more artful mode of defence was not adopted. It was so here, I think, in the case of the southern embankment which, though of the usual brashy material, is entirely overgrown by grass, affording no evidence of having ever been very different to what it is now. But when we examine the other portions of the *agger*, (the higher and inner one), we find it assuming another character: there is more stone and less earth in its composition, especially in the northern rampart, along the eastern half of which, little but stone is visible. That this is in part the ruins of ancient walling, may be seen on a perambulation of the rampart. Starting at the south-western corner, and proceeding northward, the first exposed piece is met with at a point about 100 feet north of the main entrance. Afterward, (excepting about 500 feet in the middle of the northern side, where the face is continuously out of sight), it comes into view at short intervals all the way around to a point 175 feet south of the north-eastern entrance, especially in a length from 300 to 400 feet west of the north-eastern corner. All these visible portions of the face are plotted on the original plan; but most of them are too small to be clearly seen on the accompanying plate. Where least broken down, they stand about 4 feet high above the present surface of the rubbish in the trench which, as at Worlebury, is, doubtless, the fallen material of the original wall. At Worlebury, the walls had generally more than a single terraced face—in one part there were four; but here, there is no reason for thinking that there ever was more than one, and that springing from near the foot of the outer slope of the *agger*. Whether, after being built to a height sufficient to frustrate any attempt at escalade without ladders, this was levelled-off to a simple bench at the top; or whether this bench was surmounted by a breast-work; there is no evidence to show. Some antiquaries have thought that they could discern in the walling at Dolbury indications of a later date than they found at the rival fortress; but the fact is that, allowing for some superiority in the natural bedding of the stone at Dolbury,

its masonry is essentially of the same character as that at Worlebury. In neither case has the least tool-mark been detected. A sketch of a piece of the walling which exhibits, at the same time, the greatest boldness and the greatest contrasts of size in the materials, is inserted as an illustration on the plan. As to the bank intermediate between the two trenches, nothing remains to indicate that it was either faced or crowned by a wall ; for very little rubble appears in the outer trench.

The idea that the style of a piece of rude, dry walling is indicative of its relative age is purely imaginary. That there should be a difference between the walling executed by a people destitute of metallic tools, and that erected by a race possessed of them, and a still greater difference between the former and masonry set in mortar, is quite reasonable ; but there is positively nothing in one class of dry, untooled work which, *per se*, indicates a higher or a lower antiquity than in another with which it may be compared ; otherwise we should not have examples of several styles built at the present moment in the same district. The difference between varieties of dry walling is necessarily regulated chiefly by the character of the stone, and the end for which the work was designed, and, in a minor degree, by the energy of the builders.

It is recorded that Roman and Saxon coins have been found in Dolbury, with iron spear-heads and other weapons. A friend lately showed me some articles which he had obtained by digging a foot or two below the surface, at about the middle of the inclosure. They consisted of fragments of unglazed pottery, not very coarse, made on a wheel, and of various shades of grey,—one of them ornamented with a zig-zag pattern. With these were found a sling-stone of whitish pebble, and two flint flakes.

Even if no objects had been found pointing to an occupation of this camp by the Saxons, the latter half of its name, it is well known, would strongly indicate the fact. The first element (as in many parallel instances), is clearly Keltic ; and if

there were no other examples in the district with the same ending, more than one plausible Keltic etymology of the whole name might be found.

These facts exhaust almost all that is known about Dolbury. A few objects recovered from the site; one or two popular sayings; and the collected results of antiquarian research among the relics of the neighbourhood, dimly illumined by hints struck off from the history and legendary lore of the past;—these are our only guides in conjecturing who established this ancient fortress, and what was, probably, its eventful subsequent history. Many have been the theories as to who were its founders. Some have conjectured the Phœnicians; not a few have attributed it, with similar works in this part of the country, to the Belgic-Britons; others have referred them to the race usually distinguished by the name of Kelts; others, again, have given this fortress to the Gael; and yet others to the Firbolgs;—on the assumption, not yet proved in every case, that each of these was a people distinct from the rest. All, however, that can at present be safely said on this subject is, that this camp was formed in pre-Roman times by some of the warlike dwellers or sojourners in the land; and that, afterward, it was occupied by the Romans or Romanized Britons; perhaps, temporarily, by the Danes; and, subsequently, by the Saxons.

Gadbury.

The photo-lithographed plan which illustrates this section is reduced from one plotted to a very much larger scale, from a *reconnaissance*-survey made in the year 1873, by a combination of paced lines and compass-bearings. Except that there may be a lack of strict accuracy in the radial intervals between the outer banks, trenches, and escarpments, a comparison between it and other plans makes it clear that there is little room for amendment here, while, in all matters of detail, both greater and less, this new plan is much fuller and more correct

CADBURY CAMP.

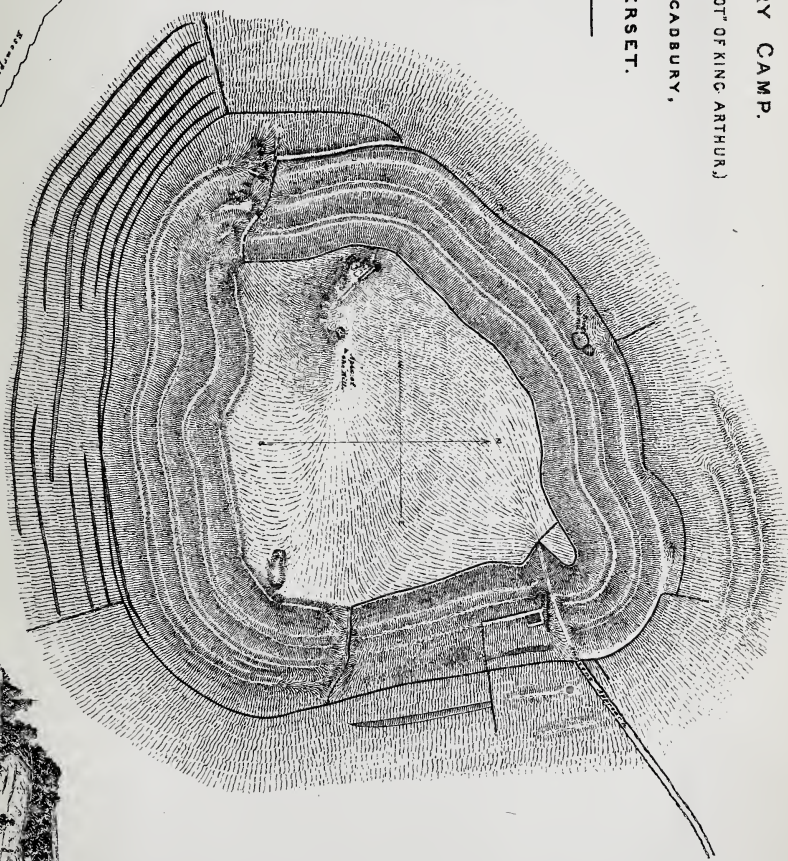
(THE REPUTED "CAMELOT" OF KING ARTHUR.)

SOUTH CADBURY,

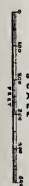
SOMERSET.



Ditch.



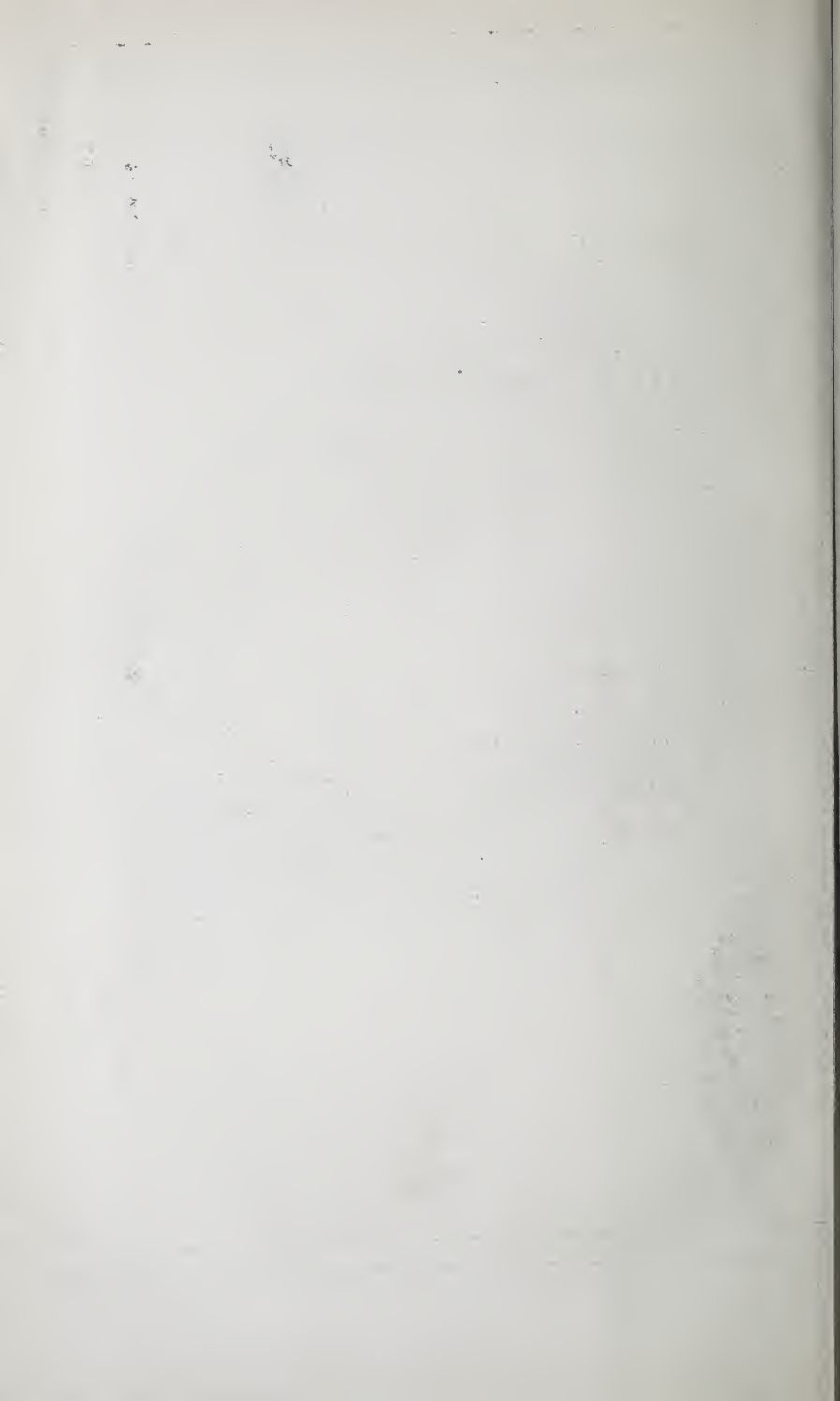
Ditch.



SCALE



View of Hill from N.E.



than the earlier ones.¹ These are,—(1) A plan, dated 1834, lithographed to a small scale, after a survey by Mr. Crocker, and published in Phelps' *History of Somersetshire*: (2) An estate-plan, of somewhat later date, to about the same scale, a copy of which the author has seen in the possession of a friend: (3) A very small plan (doubtless copied from Crocker's) which illustrates a paper by the late Rev. F. Warre on *Types of British Earthworks*.

Cadbury Castle (so called to distinguish it from the three other Cadbury camps within or near the borders of Somerset) occupies the whole of the top of a steep hill, about 300 feet in height, standing detached as an outpost a little in advance on the north-west of the higher range which stretches from Yeovil to South Cadbury, different parts of which are distinguished by the names of Corton Down, Poynington Down, and Holway Hill. Cadbury hill forms a portion of the great outcrop of the inferior oolite resting upon the lias, which comes to the surface below. It commands the basin watered by the affluents of the river Yeo; and was an important link in that chain of strong forts which dominated the Somerset levels from points of vantage at the verge of the high hill-region behind them,—long ere the dawn of history, the broken coast of a deeply-embayed estuary. The spot is two miles from the nearest point (at Sparkford) of a Roman road which left the "*Via ad Axium*" at a point somewhat to the east of Maiden Bradley; went through Stourhead; passed south-westward, at the distance of a mile or two from Bruton and Castle Cary; and then, through Sparkford and Queen's Camel, to Yeovil. There is no record of any other ancient road in this locality; but there must have been vicinal ways, the traces of which have since disappeared. The nearest camps of any note are

(1). It is unfortunate that the scale of the plan has been so greatly reduced in the reproduction that many of the delicate details of the original are lost. This is especially the case with the incidents on and around the apex of the hill.

Hamdon, 11 miles to the south-west, and Castle Orchard, 10 miles to the north-east.

The plan of the works may be described as an irregular triangle, fenced by four concentric ramparts, with intervening trenches, stepping steeply down the hill-slopes from the edge of the plateau. Below these, the plan shows that, on the north and north-east, there were detached lengths of outermost embankments; on the eastern side, a piece of bold escarpment; and on the south and south-west,—one of the steepest parts,—a series of six similar escarpments partly cut into the rock. The main entrance was probably that still used at the north-eastern corner, where the ascent is the easiest and where the northern rampart was made to bend round, so as to form a flanking defence. It has generally been held that the one at the opposite corner also was ancient; and that there was a third entrance on the eastern side, where the plan shows an existing way through the ramparts. Although these roads appear in Crocker's plan, there is reason for doubting the antiquity of the last, which has some appearance of having been made for the convenience of a former occupier of the land, and is neglected by Phelps in his enumeration of the entrances. While Stukeley writes of only one entrance from the east, guarded by six or seven ditches, it is clear, from Leland's account, that the south-western one was in existence in his time; and, therefore, it was, doubtless, a part of the original work. Mr. Warre regarded the south-western entrance as the chief, and the north-eastern one as secondary; while he assumed, undoubtedly, that the other entrance from the east, to which I have referred, was likewise ancient. The author has been unable to recognize "a smaller opening on the north side, leading through the entrenchments to the spring," which Mr. Warre fancied he could detect; "but the entrenchment had been so tampered with by modern fences," that he was evidently in considerable doubt on the matter. I have written of the south-western entrance as though there was

only one at that point; but the truth is, that, immediately to the south of the existing cart-way which gives easy access to the area, there are signs of another, a much rougher way, shown on the plan, cutting across the three higher banks, straight up to the angle. It is also shown, but too distinctly, in Crocker's plan. Whether this gap, or the adjoining more distinctly marked way, was the entrance at this point in Leland's time, may perhaps remain an open question.

The *enceinte* measures approximately about 1,000 feet by 750 feet, and may have an area of about 18 acres. Crocker's plan has no scale whereby to check the accuracy of this estimate. The ground rises gradually from the north-east and east to the apex of the hill, from whence there is a somewhat abrupt fall to the rampart on the west, and to the entrance at the south-western angle. Almost on the brow, there are remains of a straight piece of embankment, interrupted in the middle; and faint indications of small mounds between it and the edge. Not the slightest trace can be seen of the "work ditched round, and called *King Arthur's Palace*, and which might have been the *prætorium*" of Stukeley. Phelps thinks the apex of the hill might have been occupied by a *speculum*, or watch-tower. In the south-eastern corner there is a small gravel-pit, or quarry. Two springs issue from the hill-sides, among the ramparts. The chief of these, called *Arthur's Well*, (said to be never dry), is in the outer trench, on the north side, inclosed within a ring-fence, adjoining which is a small pond; the other, called *Queen Anne's Well*, is in the middle trench, by the side of the main entrance-way, close to the keeper's cottage.

The embankments are composed of the usual mixture of stones and earth, nearly everywhere overgrown by grass. In some places they and the trenches exhibit exposures of rock; but I have nowhere observed any indication of ancient walling, such as Mr. Warre, somewhat doubtfully, thought he had been able to detect. Stone must always, as now, have been scarce

on the site, and the place amply strong without walled bulwarks.

The modern works shown on the plan will, for the most part, be easily recognised. The banks and trenches belting the western, north-western, and eastern sides, are planted with trees, and fenced-in by walls. The upper one forms a *revêtement* to the inner *agger*, on the side of the *enceinte*; while the lower approximately follows the line of the outer *agger*. Another wall sweeps around its southern foot, from the westernmost bend to the south-eastern entrance. From these, several fence-walls radiate in various directions; and the main approach, beyond the trenches, is shut in by hedges.

The accounts and theories which have been published from the time of Leland downward, both of the camp, and of the objects found in it and its vicinity, together with records and opinions relating to the Arthurian legend, are fully quoted and discussed in the original paper, of which this is an abstract. As to the connexion of King Arthur with Cadbury, the writer concedes that if he were a real personage, and if the scenes of the chief incidents of his career have been truly laid in the West of England; and if the Camelot of romance had an historic reality; then the fortified hill of Cadbury seems to have the best title to be the remains of that place.

When we come to inquire by what people this ancient stronghold was constructed, we shall, as usual, have to bewail the lack of guiding evidence. Both Camden and Stukeley, with strange error of judgment, (as has been well pointed out by Mr. Warre), attributed Cadbury to the Romans, because so many coins of that people have been found there, and notwithstanding that it is not planned according to their well-known system of fortification. The evidence of the coins of course goes no farther than to show that the work was occupied either in Roman or *post-Roman* times, but gives no clue as to the date of its establishment.

Like Dolbury, the name Cadbury is compounded with ele-

ments of diverse parentage. The first half is Keltic, and has been supposed to have some reference, not very well defined, to war or battle. The last half of the word is clearly Saxon.

It is well-known that Mr. Warre had a theory which he expounded in several papers published in these *Proceedings*, that two classes of camps can be distinguished in Somerset; and that these should be attributed to different races. After much thought, and a careful comparison of most of the instances he adduces, and of many to which he has not referred, I am disposed to think that Mr. Warre's induction was based on too small a number of examples; and those, in many cases, either erroneously classified, or not sufficiently marked to lend it any support. His three-fold arrangement, for instance, is only found in its proper order of succession in two or three of the camps he has named,—the best example being Castle Neroche. Hamdon has it not. In Worlebury, the two lower divisions are separated by the "keep;" and Dolbury does not in any way answer to the description. Membury, and Norton too, must not be grouped in that category. And it seems not to have occurred to Mr. Warre that there are many examples of the concentric camp in Damnonia, even down to the extremity of Cornwall; and also that specimens affiliated to those of the triple order are found in distant localities,—for instance, in Wales, Ireland, Brittany, and Istria. Among many less important works of the concentric class in Damnonia, it will be sufficient to instance Chywoon Castle, Castle-an-dinas, and Castle Kenyoe, in Cornwall; Ditchen Hills, Denbury, and Cadbury (near Silverton), in Devonshire; and Norton camp in Somerset; all within the region unpenetrated by the Belgæ; and all good examples of the circular, oval, or concentric form.

In fact, the truth appears to be, that the plans, arrangements, and modes of construction of primitive works of defence were ruled almost solely by the form of the ground, and by the nature of the materials found upon the site; and, though there may have been some differences of fashion among different races,

arising from tribal needs, habits, and pursuits, I am convinced that these were not sufficiently marked to make any such a local classification as that proposed by Mr. Warre at present possible. It can scarcely be hoped that any clearer light will be shed upon the subject until a much more extensive and systematic exploration by the spade than has yet been undertaken shall have been applied to these and many other similar works in the same district.

Note on a Tomb at Barrow Gurney.

BY REV. H. M. SCARTH, M.A.

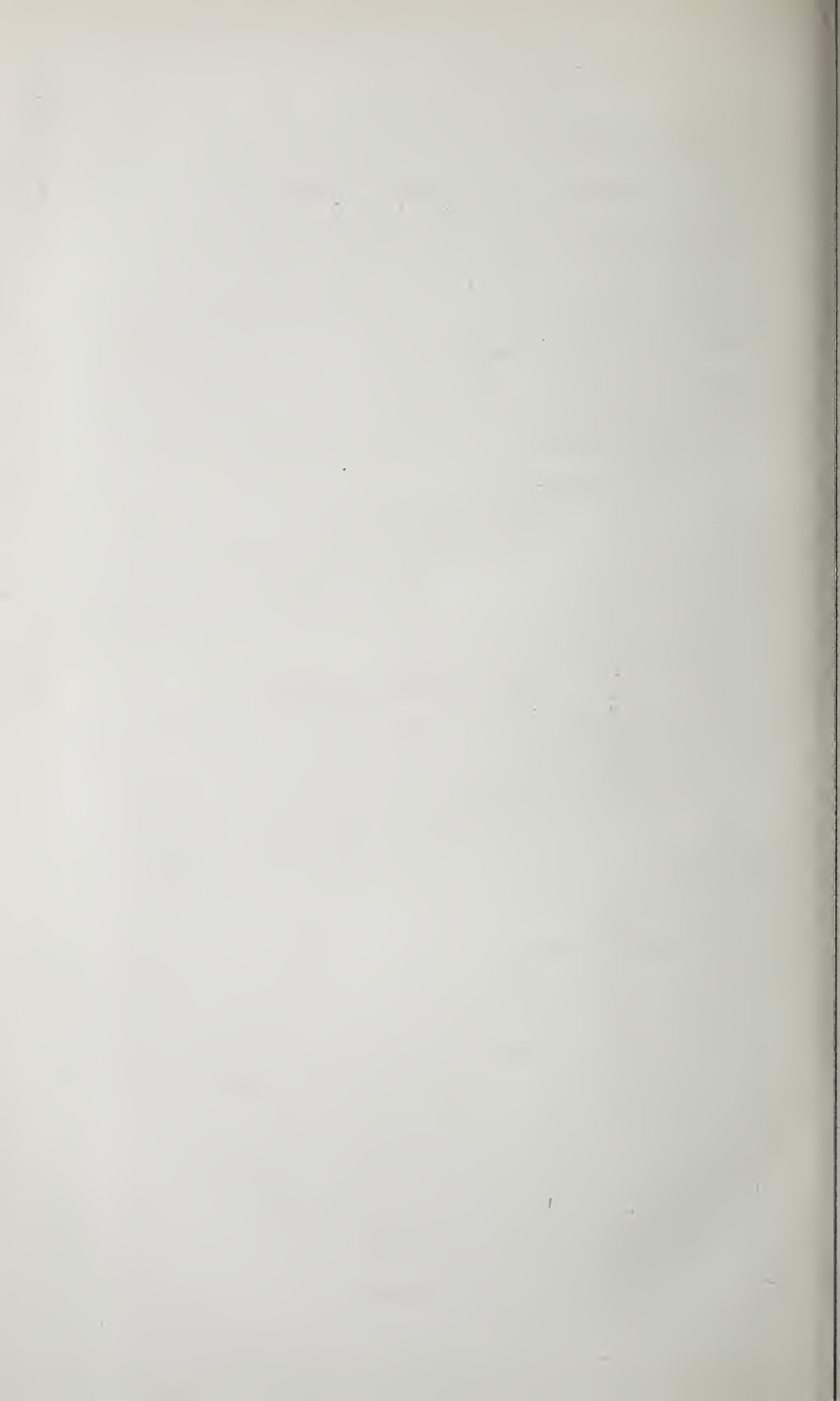
WHEN the ground nearest the church at Barrow Gurney was lately being prepared for an enlargement of the terrace and pleasure grounds of the Manor House,—an Elizabethan building, contiguous to the church, and standing on the site of the Priory,—a burial vault was found at the western end of the church, between it and the house. The church seems to have been connected originally with the Priory by means of a chapel, and it is in the floor of this chapel the interment was found. The vault is covered by a pavement of encaustic tiles, for the most part perfect, and around it, in mediæval lettering, are the words—

Dame Johanna de Acton.

The letters **M. R.** are also repeated, meaning *Maria Regina*, i.e., the Virgin Mary, to whom the Priory was dedicated. The arms on the shields (as far as can be ascertained) are those of Acton (?), Rodney, Clare, Patton (?), Berkeley, De Mohun (?); with tiles of a conventional type, having on them two birds looking towards each other, and a plant or tree between them.

A detailed account of Minchin Barrow Priory will be found in the *Proceedings* for 1863. From this it would appear that “Richard de Acton, chevalier,” gave lands and messuages in Wells and Barwegorney to the Priory, to provide a chaplain for the good of his soul, &c.; the letters patent bearing date 14th October, 1361.

Thomas de Berkeley held lands in Barrow Gurney at this date, 1361, and the Berkeley arms are also above the vault. The remains of the lady found in this tomb may perhaps be those of one related to this family.



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THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY; and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset, and the establishment of a Museum and Library.

II.—The Officers of the Society shall consist of a Patron and Trustees, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General and District, or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such special Meetings and its object shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society will be *ex-officio* Members), which shall hold monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; three of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the Official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a Member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. The property of the Society shall be held in trust for the Members by twelve Trustees, who shall be chosen from the Members at any General Meeting. All Manuscripts and Communications and the other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The Rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

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XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

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XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society shall (with the author's consent, and subject to the discretion of the Committee), be published in the *Proceedings* of the Society.

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XIX.—Any person contributing books or specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in the event of a dissolution of the Society. Persons shall also have liberty to deposit books or specimens for a specific time only.

XX.—In case of dissolution, the real property of the Society in Taunton shall be held by the Trustees for the advancement of Literature, Science, and Art, in the town of Taunton and the county of Somerset.

May, 1883.

*** It is requested that contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at Taunton Castle.*



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